METRO / A25

Suspected mastermind in child rape-slay case surrenders to QC police

SPORTS / A29

UE Warriors send Archers crashing to 3rd place

WORLD / A28

Massive aftershocks shake Indonesia; new tsunami warning up

BUSINESS FRIDAY / B2-1

Vegetarian restos in Baguio serving mushroom 'sisig,' mock 'adobo' draw health buffs

Erap feared cops would drop him from chopper

MAY TAKOT DIN PALA!

By Alcuin Papa

FRESH FROM A courthouse where he was sentenced to life imprisonment for plunder, deposed President Joseph Estrada sud-

ERAP FEARED/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, September 14, 2007 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 278 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Gonzalez to undergo kidney transplant today

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ will undergo a kidney transplant today, the INQUIRER has learned.

His driver will be his kidney donor.

Gonzalez, 76, was asked by President Macapagal-Arroyo last month to go on leave for two months after she noticed he was having difficulty walking during a Cabinet

GONZALEZ / A18

AFTER THE VERDICT

Erap chats with JV over glass of wine

By Jocelyn R. Uy

JOSEPH ESTRADA MAY BE FACING a life restricted to his vacation house in Tanay, but the once powerful leader has never been so at peace and happy since the entire run of his trial.

"People showed their love and support for me although I had not been out for six years. They did not forget me," said the ousted President who became on Wednesday the first highest official of the Philippines to be convicted of plunder.

On Wednesday night after the promulgation of the guilty verdict, Estrada said he just watched the re-runs of the live TV coverage of the event and had a chat with his son, San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, over a bottle of wine.

But Ejercito only took a sip as he is not really a drinker, said Estrada, whose penchant for wine he does not keep secret.

"I told my sons not to let the verdict affect them, that I can handle this and I am prepared for any eventuality," he said. *(See related story on Page A5.)*

There was no feast prepared at his sprawling rest house, where he has been in detention since 2004. He ended the night with a prayer, trying to make sense of the adverse decision as "God's trial he has to hurdle," the man himself said.

At his Polk residence in Greenhills, his wife, former Sen. Loi Estrada, attended to chores as a four-day vigil ended the other night, he added.

The Sandiganbayan Special Division closed its landmark trial by convicting Estrada of plunder and sentencing him up to 40 years in prison.

His son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, and lawyer, Edward Serapio, were acquitted of conspiring with the former leader to commit plunder.

ERAP CHATS/ A19

SURPRISE: And the face of ex-President Estrada showed it, while strapped to his seat after his convoy was diverted from land to the air. The plan was for Estrada to return to Tanay the same way he came to court. His custodian, Chief Supt. Romeo Hilomen (at left), assured his captive that he was there to protect him and that everything would be just fine. *(Story at left above).* EDWIN BACASMAS

JDV III: Abalos bugged me

Says poll chair told him of wiretap

By Tony S. Bergonia

THE HEAD OF A FILIPINO firm that was sidetracked in the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project said he was wiretapped by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos to monitor his conversations with officials of Chinese firm ZTE Corp., which bagged the NBN deal.

Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, majority shareholder of tech firm Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI). said in an affidavit that it was Abalos himself, in a fit of rage, who admitted the wiretapping.

Asked about De Venecia's new allegation against him, Abalos declined to comment.

"When I am confronted with the actual facts in a proper forum, then that is the time I will comment," Abalos said yesterday.

In the affidavit, which was notarized on Sept. 11, De Venecia said that in the course of Abalos' attempts to push AHI out of the project, he had conversations with ZTE officials to explore the possibility of a tie-up.

ZTE officials, according to the

JDV III/ A10

GMA: We must honor gov't contracts

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AMID CALLS FOR THE SCRAPPING of the $329-million supply contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project, President Macapagal-Arroyo said Wednesday night "we must be a government that honors contracts and agreements that go through the required processes, despite media attacks."

The supply contract was awarded to China's ZTE Corp. during Ms Arroyo's visit to China in April.

Various sectors, including leaders of Congress, have called for the scrapping of the deal, claiming that it was attended by bribery and was overpriced and unnecessary.

Acting on the petition of Iloilo Vice

GMA/ A21

SHOWING THEIR TRUE COLORS
Members of the People Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) marching on Adriatico Street, Malate, call for the boycott of the Manila Zoo located nearby, and for the return of the captive animals to their native habitats. The protesters themselves called much attention to themselves as only colorful paint covered their nearly naked bodies. *(Story on Page A26).* REM ZAMORA

GMA forms superbody to fight graft

By Michael Lim Ubac

TO DEAL WITH CORRUPTION IN government, President Macapagal-Arroyo has created a body that will monitor procurement for public projects and report irregularities to agency heads concerned.

Ms Arroyo called it the Procurement Transparency Group (PTG), which will include representatives from civil society.

GMA FORMS/ A13

Dutch court orders Joma released

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS—A Dutch court yesterday ordered the immediate release of Philippine communist leader Jose Ma. Sison, saying there was insufficient evidence to hold him on murder charges.

Sison, 68, was arrested on Aug. 28 in Utrecht, where he has lived in self-imposed exile for two decades, for allegedly ordering the killing of two rivals—Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara—in Manila.

He was due to be released later in the day from Scheveningen prison outside The Hague, where he had been held much of the time in isolation.

The judges said it was clear the Communist Party of the Philippines was responsible, and that the decision to kill the two men had been taken "within the party structure." But there was too little evidence to link Sison directly, the ruling said.

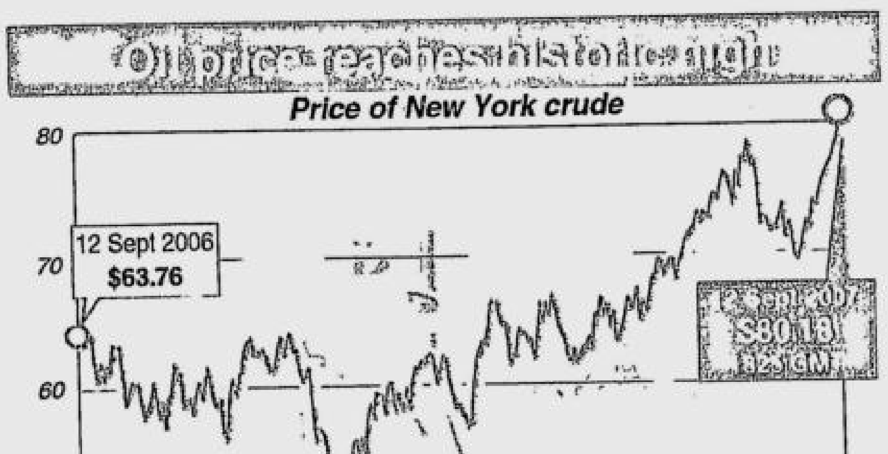
"There is much support in the evidence for the view that (Sison) still plays a prominent role in the Central Committee of the CPP and its military arm, the New People's Army," judges at The Hague District Court said in a brief summary of their ruling.

But it said the evidence was insufficient to show that Sison "had a conscious and close cooperation with those in the Philippines who carried out the deed."

It also said there was inadequate evidence to prosecute Sison for inciting the killings.

Prosecution spokesperson Wim de

DUTCH COURT/ A18



NO PRICE HIKES YET

Oil price hits record $80 a barrel

WORLD OIL PRICES ON THURSDAY held near the previous day's record high above $80 a barrel, as a hurricane threatened refineries in the Gulf of Mexico and US crude stocks fell sharply.

Despite the surge in world crude prices, oil companies in the Philippines said they had no plans yet of increasing pump prices—at least for the rest of the week.

US crude traded at around $79.79 a barrel on Thursday afternoon after climbing $1.68 on Wednesday when it hit a record of $80.18. London Brent crude shed 27 cents to $77.41.

Prices have climbed 31 percent this year and have quadrupled since 2002, as investors buy into worries over real and potential supply disruptions in producers, such as Mexico, Nigeria and Iran, growing consumer demand and infrastructure constraints.

"There is truly a fear factor on the supply side that is shaking the market," said Yonghun Jung of the Asia Pacific Energy Research Center in Tokyo.

Roberto Kanapi, general manager for external affairs at Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., said his company was closely monitoring crude prices in the world market.

"Prices continue to remain volatile, and we're not really sure how long this will last. Right now, we have no plans

OIL PRICE/ A21

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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MIDNIGHT DEAL? PARANG MAY NANGYARI NG GANITO NOON AH!

'Midnight deal' bothers Atienza

$1.3M air monitoring contract was signed by predecessor

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO STAUNCH SUPPORTERS of President Macapagal-Arroyo are headed for a collision over a $1.3-million "midnight deal" for a project to monitor the level of air pollution in Metro Manila.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said Wednesday he was bothered by the supposed deal signed by his predecessor, now Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, involving the payment of $1.3 million to an American firm which handled the air pollution monitoring project.

The amount represented supposed back fees owed by the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the US-based Emissions Technology Inc. (ETI) which set up the air monitoring network.

"It also bothered me when it first came to my attention," he told congressmen to whom he presented the DENR's proposed P7.934-billion budget for next year.

Under questioning during the House budget deliberations, Atienza assured the legislators that the payment of the supposed back fees was "on hold" while his office was reviewing the project.

"We haven't paid anything yet," he said. "And because we are now confronted with conflicting positions on the matter, I'd like a total review."

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, who confronted the former Manila mayor over the "failed" Ambient Air Monitoring Network (AAMN), yesterday said the project had the "hallmarks of a midnight deal."

Sought for comment by the INQUIRER, Atienza said Reyes signed a Letter of Undertaking (LOU) on July 31 or the day before he left the DENR.

Atienza said the letter basically showed the DENR's "intention to proceed with the contract."

In a memorandum dated Nov. 24, 2006, Environment Undersecretary Armi Jane Roa-Borje had recommended the termination of the contract for the "repair and upgrading of 10 air quality monitoring stations."

"After careful evaluation of the available records and the position papers submitted by the parties, this office finds that there are factual and legal bases that would warrant the termination/cancellation of the said contract," Borje wrote Reyes.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **'MALUNGGAY'** proves potent for men hoping to become fathers. /A7
- **ARMED FORCES** waffles, won't release report on license plate in Jonas case. /A11
- **6.1 QUAKE** hits Mindanao after Indonesia; storm just misses RP. /A12
- **JINGGOY, JV** kiss, make up in toilet after Erap verdict. /A5

Teodoro: HQ visit not loyalty check

By Nikko Dizon

DEFENSE SECRETARY GILBERT Teodoro Jr. yesterday shrugged off speculations that his visit to Philippine Army headquarters was part of a "loyalty check" in the Armed Forces of the Philippines after former President Joseph Estrada was found guilty of plunder.

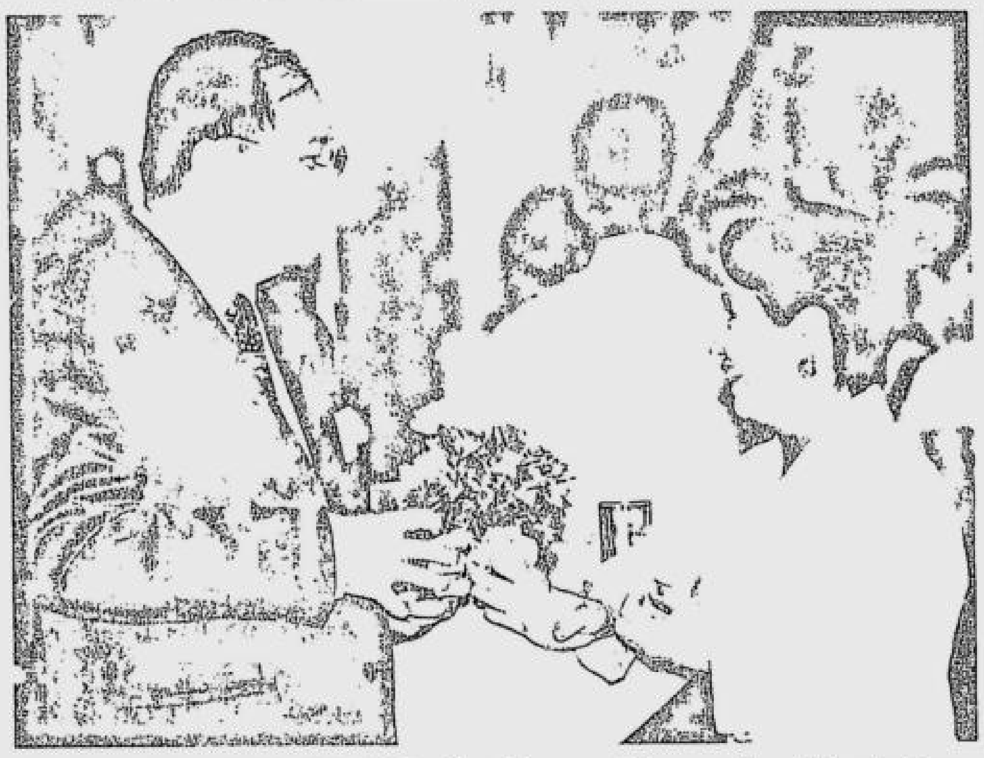
"There's no need for a loyalty check among the soldiers because I am sure they are professional and they are loyal to the chain of command," Teodoro said.

Teodoro said he took the opportunity in his recent visits to the Army, Navy and Air Force commands to ask the senior officers about their concerns and explain to them the platforms of the Department of National Defense.

He said that there were no indications of restiveness in the military that could lead to another destabilization attempt against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The military has remained on red alert although the verdict in the plunder trial of Estrada was handed down Wednesday.

Teodoro, meanwhile, said that imposing a fixed three-year term for the AFP chief of staff may be unconstitutional even as he conceded that such a move "may be wise."



SIBLINGS FOR A GREEN HAVEN. President Macapagal-Arroyo talks with her brother, Arturo Macapagal, at the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the Peñablanca Reforestation Project, a joint undertaking among the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, Conservation International, Toyota Motor Corp. and local governments to restore 2,500 hectares of forest lands within the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape Area in Cagayan province. Arturo is the president of Toyota Pasong Tamo in Makati.

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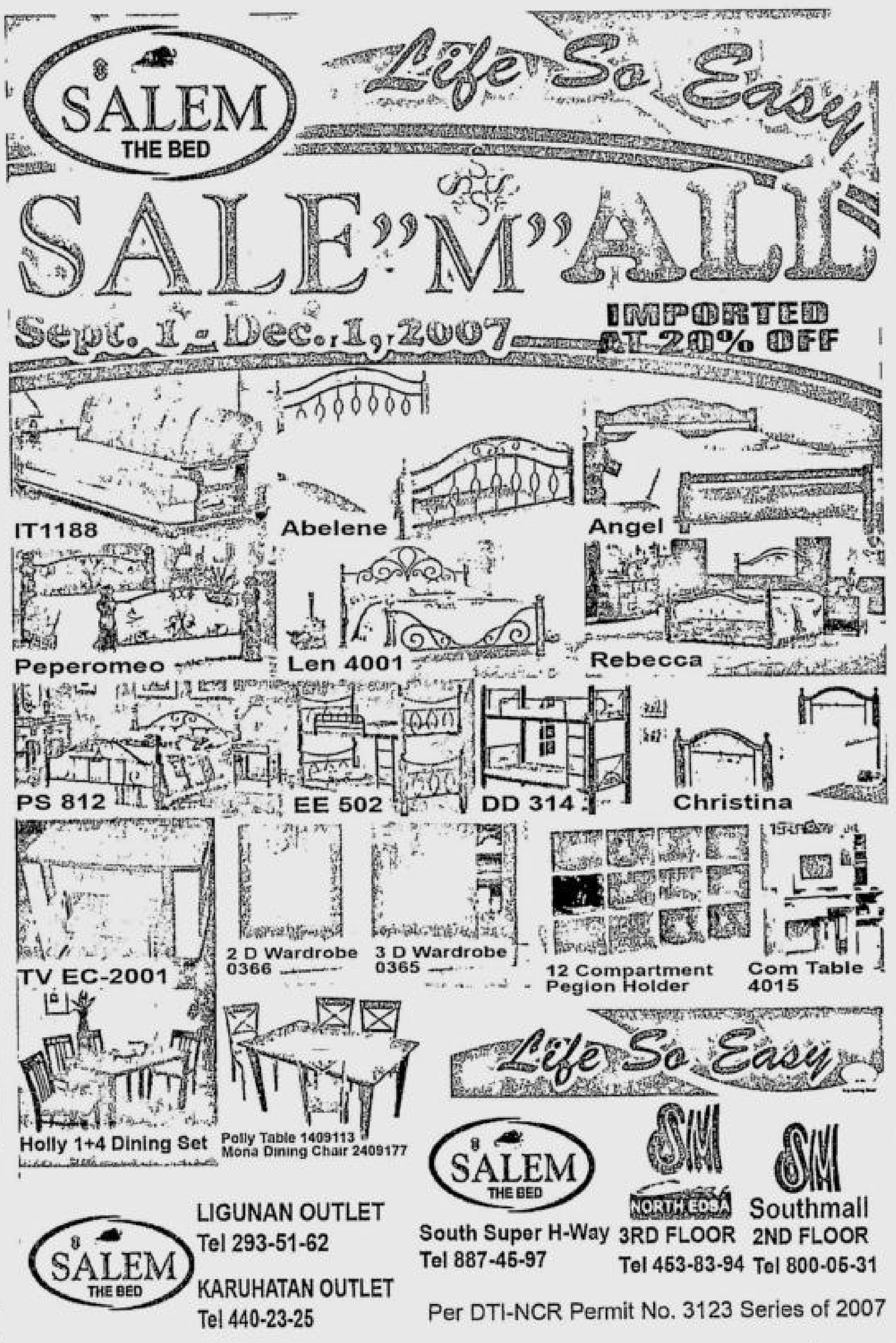
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Barangay polls filing sked reset

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS has reset the date for the filing of certificates of candidacy for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections to Sept. 29 from Sept. 14.

In a statement, the Comelec said yesterday it would accept the certificates until Oct. 18.

The Comelec also set the ban on firearms from Sept. 29 to Nov. 13.

The Comelec en banc, in Resolution 8301, cited the need to adjust the schedule "to ensure accomplishment of the activities in preparation for the barangay and SK elections [on Oct. 29] and so as not to deprive voters of their right of suffrage.

Earlier this week, the Comelec announced the certificates of candidacy could be filed between Sept. 14 and 19.

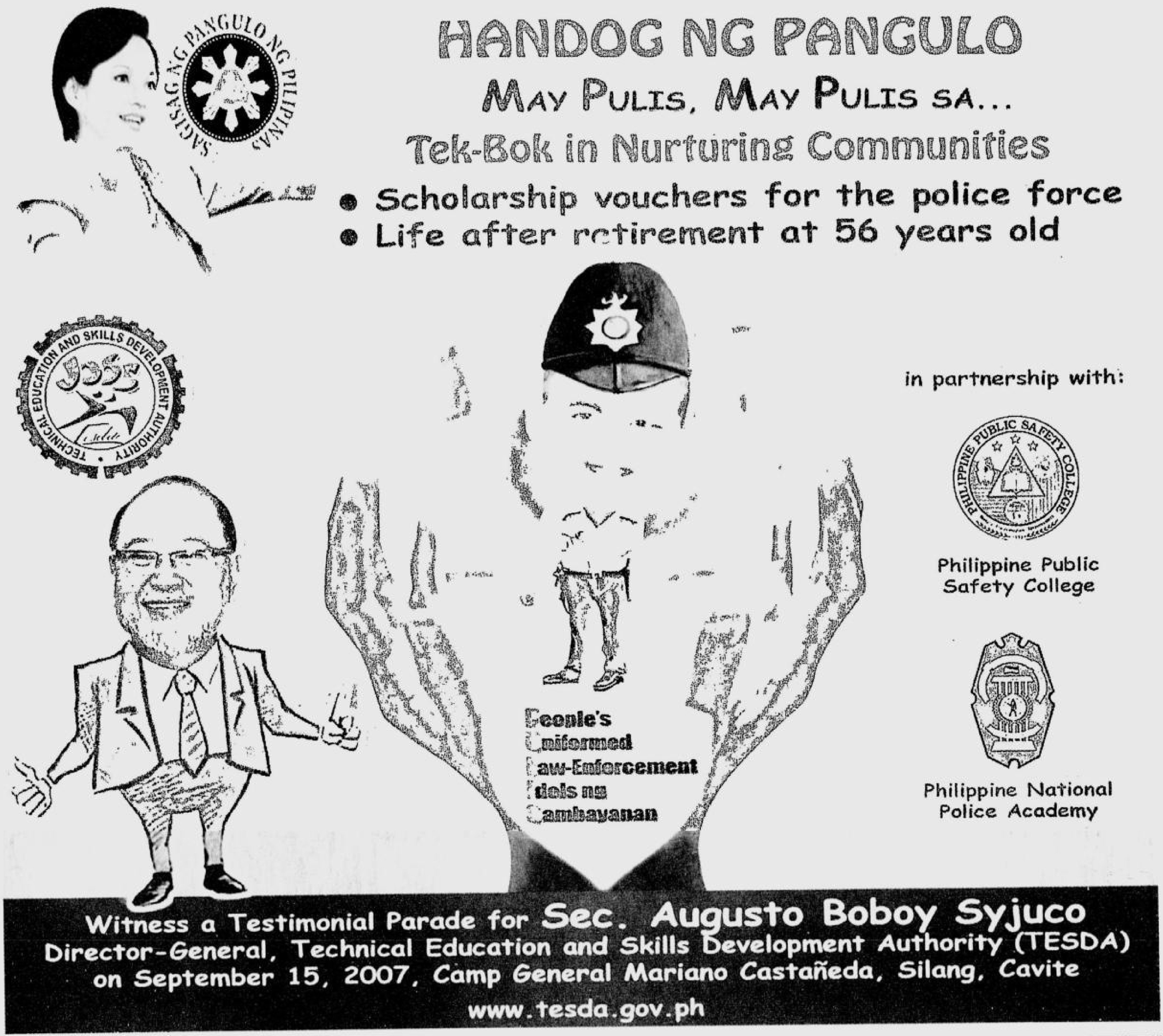
Candidates for punong barangay (village chair), sangguniang barangay kagawad (village councilor), SK chair and SK kagawad must file their certificates at their city or municipal election offices.

The Comelec said candidates must file their certificates in person or through a duly authorized representative.

The Philippine National Police is set to implement the nationwide gun ban ahead of the barangay election.

Chief Supt. Florencio Caccam Jr., chief of the PNP Firearms and Explosives Division, corrected reports the gun ban was to be implemented starting yesterday.

Beverly T. Natividad and Alcuin Papa



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on September 15, 2007, Camp General Mariano Castañeda, Silang, Cavite
www.tesda.gov.ph

Printing

Dawn Admits: My Husband Has A New *Lover*

After almost a decade of being wife to Congressman Anton Lagdameo, actress Dawn Zulueta has finally gotten the courage to admit the truth about her marriage.

"My husband has a new lover," she bravely discloses.

This new woman in her husband's life has a stunning hourglass figure – long, sexy legs, a shapely waist, slender arms and a flat tummy. She even looks younger than Dawn was a few years ago.

Who is this new woman? Before a malicious conclusion manages to form itself in your mind, let the truth be known: Her husband's new lover – is Dawn herself!

After weight struggles, mostly a result of her pregnancy, Dawn has managed to regain her whistle-bait body through religiously undergoing Marie France treatments, watching her diet and living a healthy lifestyle. At one point she reached 146 lbs. and a 40-inch waistline, a far cry from her formerly slim figure.

She reveals, "I went up 40 pounds after giving birth. My waistline was 40? 44? And that was from a 27-inch waistline! Imagine? I mean if you think about it, *magpapa-lipo na lang ako diba?* I actually consulted a doctor about it and was so close to doing it already. But the doctor said, "Dawn, *kung gusto mo mabuntis, wag ka muna magpa-lipo. Kasi sayang.*" She was being honest. That's 'cause if you gain weight again after you have lipo done, the fat comes out in other areas that were not "lipo-ed." So your body isn't proportioned, it's disfigured. *Yun yung may mga* ripples. *Parang longganisa!* Plus, I don't like seeing marks on my body. With lipo, *kahit maliliit,* I still don't like seeing scars. *Pag nagsuot ako ng* bathing suit, *parang halatang may ginawa ako sa* area *na 'to.*"

"When I started doing Marie France, I told myself, 'Why didn't I think of this before?!'" Dawn recalls. "I started to lose weight even in areas no amount of exercise could treat! Like my saddlebags, cellulites, *ganyan.* They have so many machines! All the treatments are non-surgical and non-invasive so it's safe."

Now at 126 lbs. with a healthier, slimmer body, she is happier, more confident and more energetic. Dawn stresses, however, that she is all for being slim the safe, healthy way. She even admits to loving food, a refreshing divergence from the rampant eating disorders some celebrities fall victim to. "It would be difficult for me to avoid food, because I'm surrounded with a lot of people who love to eat. My own family loves to eat. So it's difficult for me to try to keep everything to a minimum, especially all the rich foods. But that's where discipline comes in."

And her discipline and consistent visits to Marie France have paid off, with her figure as evidence. "I think that having not only a sexy figure, but a healthy lifestyle helps in keeping the fire burning in any marriage," Dawn states. "I know that I look good. So I guess it helps, because it boosts my confidence when it comes to being with my husband. *Siyempre,* he in turn is also happy with the way I look, and I guess he also sees how happy I am with the way I am."

"It even affects your mood," Dawn adds. "It affects everything you do. Now, when my husband wants to go out or do anything, it's easier for me to get up and go because I'll fit into anything. Unlike before, I'd refuse to go out and tell him I had nothing to wear. He'd tell me, 'Ok, I'll buy you something to wear,' but then I'd tell him, 'It's 2 sizes bigger than my original size. *'Wag na lang.'* I'd just get depressed. So that could've posed bigger problems if it kept on happening. Now I know finding out everything about each other and accepting each other is a normal development in any relationship. However, having said that, it's also still important to maintain some kind of mystery and allure. *Kasi* when you take these things for granted, it's like taking your partner for granted. So I think it's important that married couples keep themselves looking good for each other, like how it was when they were still dating. And that goes for the men too!"

"I think that having not only a sexy figure, but a healthy lifestyle helps in keeping the fire burning in any marriage. Kasi when you take these things for granted, it's like taking your partner for granted."

As for her husband's "new lover," what is she up to now? "A new baby," Dawn excitedly announces. "Come December, my husband and I are going to work on it. So that's the next big project for me. And you're going to see me gain weight all over again!"

She is not worried, however. "You're going to see me lose it all again too," she promises. "'Cause there's always Marie France!"

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Prelate, Estrada's friend, hopes for a pardon

A DAY AFTER THE SANDIGANBAYAN found deposed President Joseph Estrada guilty of plunder and sentenced him to life imprisonment, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal expressed the hope that President Macapagal-Arroyo would exercise her power of executive clemency on behalf of her predecessor.

Vidal, a close friend of Estrada's, said that while he respected the verdict of the Sandiganbayan, he felt saddened by it.

At the same time, Vidal said he hoped Estrada would eventually be pardoned by Ms Arroyo.

Vidal advised Estrada to be strong in facing the situation, saying that everything happens according to God's plan.

"It is a good thing that you still have a chance to get a reconsideration. This is not yet the end," he said.

Vidal, who served as a "spiritual adviser" to Estrada in the past, had been meeting with Estrada and consoling him in his Tanay, Rizal, rest house in the run-up to the Sandiganbayan decision.

Speaker Jose de Venecia appealed for sobriety, particularly among Estrada's supporters, so the country's modest economic gains could continue.

"I appeal to our people to let the law take its course and stay away from any precipitate political action that could do more harm than good to the national interest. It is time for Filipinos to move away from needless confrontation and embrace national reconciliation and cooperation," he said.

Senate President Manuel Villar suspended the plenary session on Wednesday afternoon, even though there were enough senators to make up a quorum. The excuse given was that some senators wanted to "think things over."

Villar, who played a key role in Estrada's impeachment by the House in 2000, denied that he canceled the session to show solidarity with the deposed leader.

But he said he believed Estrada should have been acquitted.

The Sandiganbayan verdict in fact convicted Estrada on the testimony of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson, which was corroborated by a paper trail of bank checks and deposits and the ledger kept by Estrada's accountant, and Estrada's solicitation of a commission and bribe from the sale of Belle Resources shares to two state pension funds, also corroborated by a paper trail.

The BW Resources stock manipulation scandal never even figured in the decision.

Estrada, the first head of state to undergo and be convicted in a criminal trial, was acquitted on the charge of perjury and two other charges of plunder.

His son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Edward Serapio, were cleared of plunder charges.

Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin San Pedro yesterday appealed to authorities not to transfer Estrada to the New Bilibid Prison following his conviction.

"As a former leader of the country, he should be allowed to remain at his Tanay resthouse. He should not be transferred to the NBP," the mayor said. *Reports from Beverly Natividad, Norman Bordadora, Dona Pazzibugan, Julie M. Aurelio, Alcuin Papa and Kristine L. Alave*

Erap won't take pardon; Jinggoy, JV make up

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. JINGGOY ESTRADA YESTERDAY said his father, former President Joseph Estrada, would reject a pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo even if it means being jailed with common criminals at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

"We will not accept any pardon, my father will continue to fight for justice," Jinggoy said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

But at least one good thing came out of his father's conviction—the reconciliation of two sons long divided by familial and political troubles.

Shortly after the verdict was read, the former president shared a moment with sons Jinggoy and San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito in the restroom of the courthouse.

Jinggoy, Estrada's eldest son with wife Loi, and JV, his son by former actress Guia Gomez, finally hugged and made up after years of sibling rivalry.

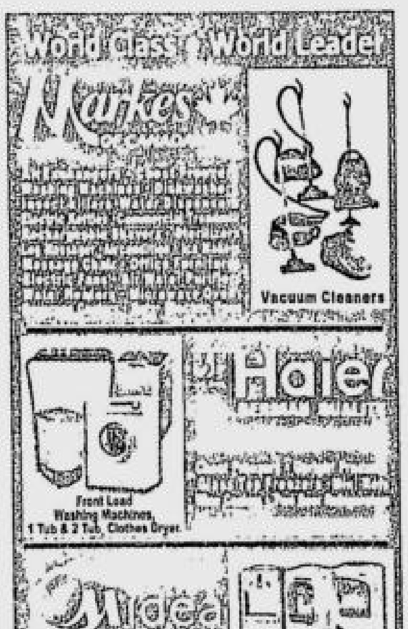
"It was a very emotional moment for the three of us," JV said at a press conference in Makati City yesterday.

"There we were just the three of us in the bathroom. There were tears and hugging. But through it all, my father remained composed," JV said, recalling the encounter that lasted five to 10 minutes.

The half-brothers had not been on good terms for some time, a conflict that worsened at the height of the May elections when Jinggoy, a former San Juan mayor himself, fielded local candidates against JV's party. *With DJ Yap*

ERRATUM

We extend our deepest apologies to *UAP President Arch. Medeliano T. Roldan* and to *PIID President Arch Arlen P. De Guzman* for the switching of their messages placed on Sept 13 for the Philhome Exhibit announcement. We sincerely regret the mixup and hope for your understanding. - Paragon Associates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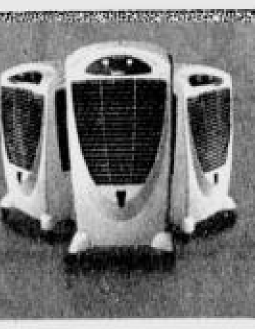

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Per DTI NCR Permit # A1 - 626 Series of 2007

'Malunggay' hikes male potency, say experts

By Amy R. Remo

MEN WHO MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SIRE children can soon count on the "malunggay" plant to work its magic on them.

A recent study conducted by experts at the Bureau of Plant Industry showed the fruit of the malunggay helped "immensely" in raising the sperm count of men who ate it, according to BPI's Vivencio Mamaril.

Malunggay, scientific name *Moringa oleifera Lam*, is enjoying huge popularity after its high micronutrient content was discovered.

According to the Department of Agriculture's Biotechnology Program Office, the malunggay has been found by biochemists and molecular anthropologists to be rich in vitamins C and A, iron, and high density lipoprotein or good cholesterol.

It is also seen to help combat malnutrition and, at the same time, provide a source of income for farmers.

By the same token, eating malunggay fruit is seen to lead to higher semen count, which translates into increased opportunity for the sperm to fertilize an egg.

Most nutritious on planet

According to the BPI report, this "scientific finding will certainly have an impact on current malunggay consumption since only the leaves had been nurtured and purchased by companies for fortifying processed food that includes instant noodles."

In the same article, Mamaril said the malunggay was "perhaps the most nutritious vegetable available on the planet."

"My reading had revealed that malunggay has seven times the vitamin C in oranges, four times the calcium in milk, four times the vitamin A in carrots, twice the protein in milk, and three times the potassium in bananas," he said.

Aside from increasing sperm count and providing the bulk of the daily dietary nutrient requirement of humans, the malunggay has been found in India to have many medicinal uses.

Treats fever, too

A study conducted by Indian experts in 2001 showed the fresh root of the young tree can be used to treat a fever.

Asthmatics are advised to drink the infusion from the roots of the plant.

In battling ascites, which are caused by cirrhosis and other liver and spleen problems, sufferers are advised to drink the juice of boiled malunggay root.

Normally, the liquid from ascites has to be drained using a needle or other surgical procedure.

Tender malunggay leaves also reduce phlegm and are administered internally for scurvy and catarrhal conditions, while the flowers are used to heal inflammation of the tendons and abscesses.

Mamaril said unripe pods can prevent intestinal worms, while the fruit also prevents eye disorders.

Secura Philippines Inc., a biotech firm, has offered the government a contract to grow malunggay and a donation of products like malunggay leaf powder for study.

DA-BPO chief Alicia Ilaga said the agriculture department is encouraging experts from the public and private sectors to work together for the wider cultivation and processing of malunggay.

They include the Department of Health, the National Nutrition Council, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the National Anti-Poverty Commission, and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

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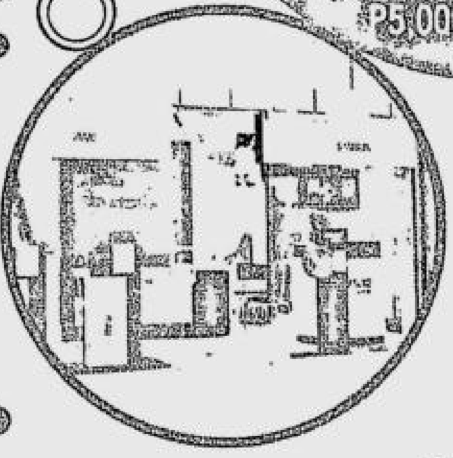

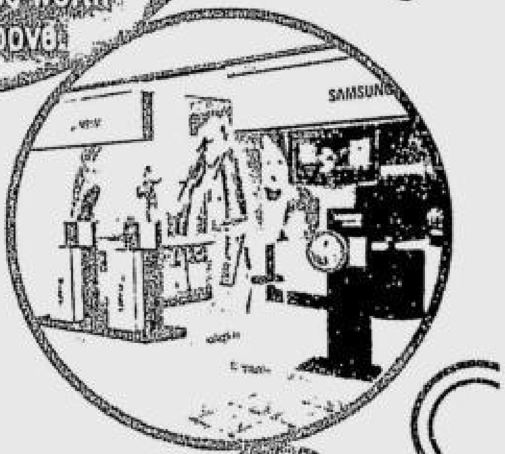

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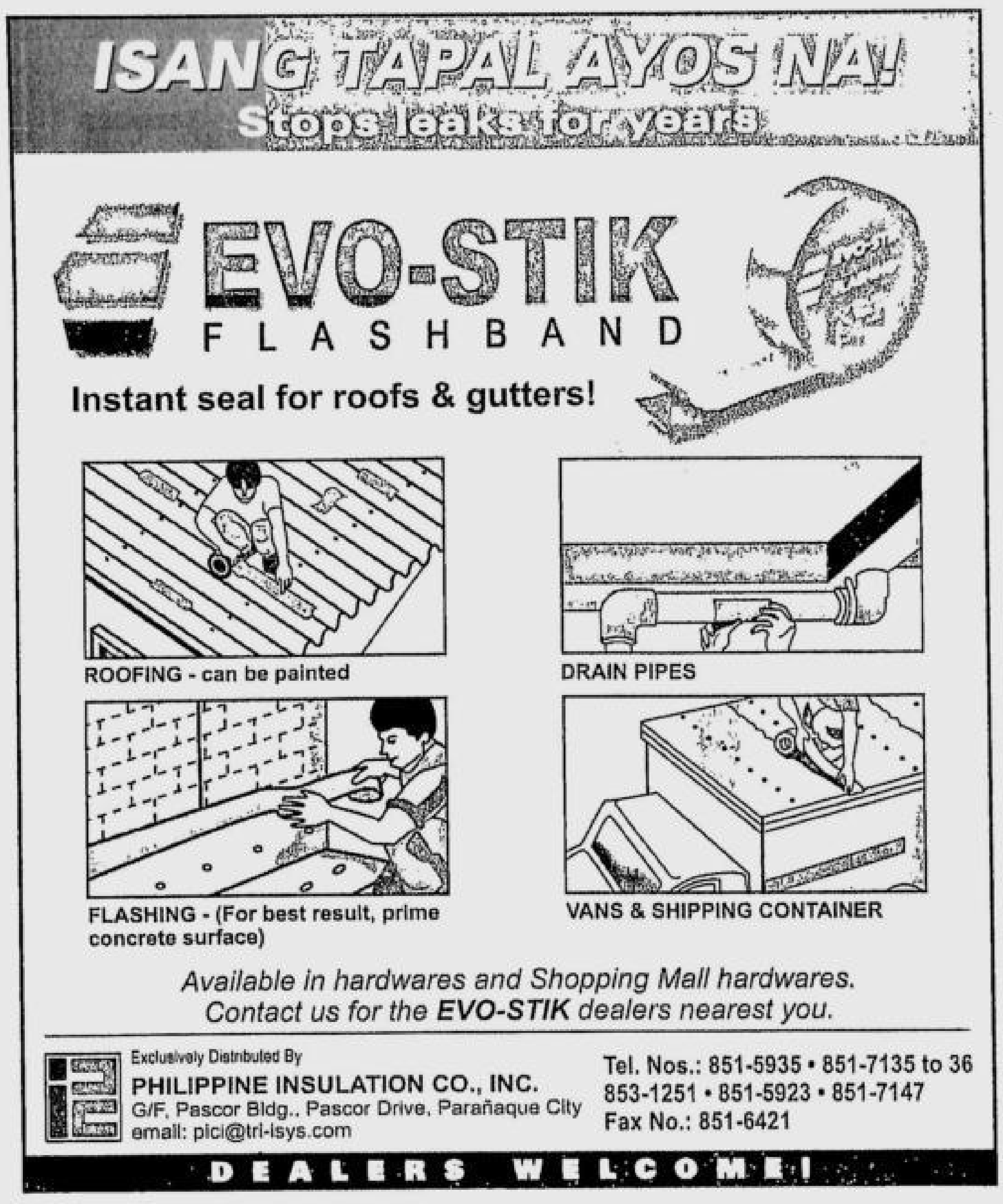
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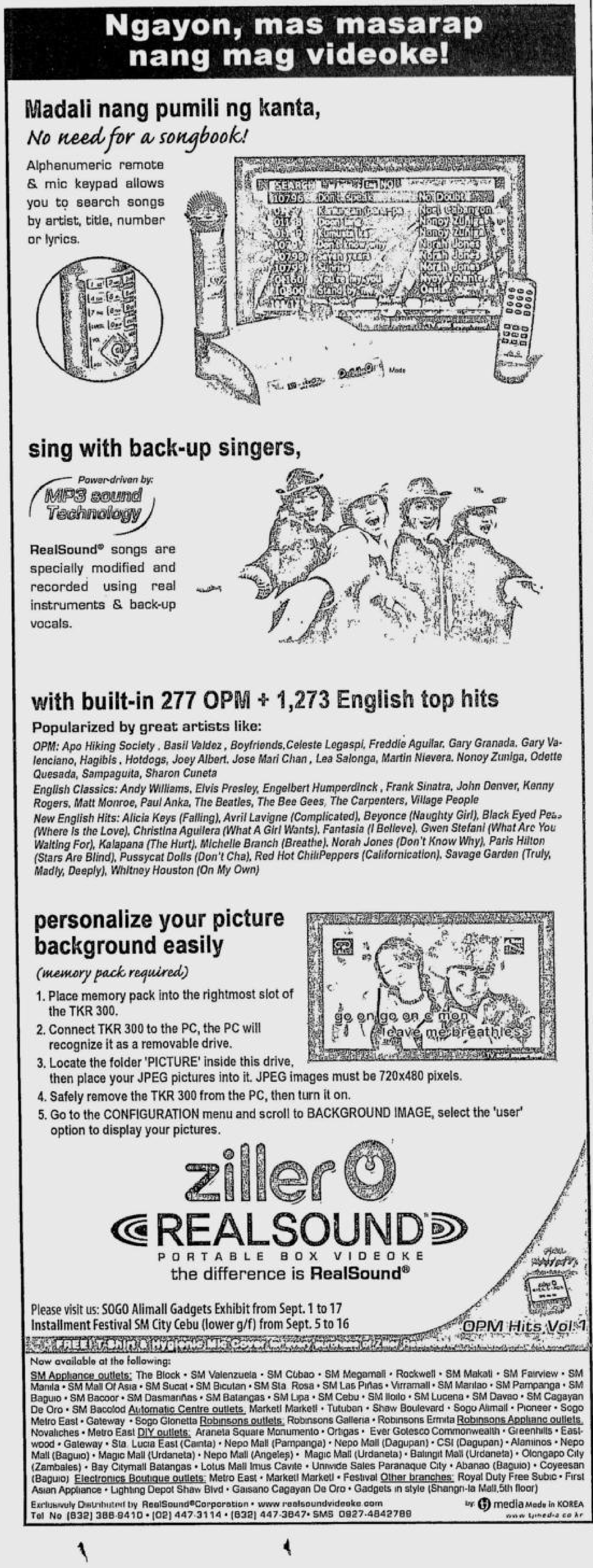
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DepEd forms 9-man panel to study textbook errors

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION has formed a nine-member special oversight committee for the textbook procurement program, Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus said yesterday.

The proposed "presidential task force," which will look into the recurring problem of textbook errors and ensure transparency in the textbook procurement program, is awaiting approval by President Macapagal-Arroyo, he said.

Lapus did not name the members of the panel but assured the public that it would be composed of "highly respected educators and textbook experts with unquestionable integrity."

"Let's wait. The President might replace one or two of the people I recommended," Lapus said.

Earlier, Lapus said historian Ambeth Ocampo, an INQUIRER columnist, was among those being considered for the special committee.

But he said Antonio Calipjo-Go, a perennial critic of the textbooks issued by the DepEd, was definitely out.

Aside from Ocampo, Lapus said they were also seriously considering educators from Ateneo de Manila University and University of the Philippines.

Other groups like media and the National Book Development Board (NBDB) will also be represented in the panel.

Definitely "*walang kontrobersyal* [nobody controversial]" like Go, owner and academic supervisor of Marian School of Quezon City in Novaliches, said Lapus.

The educator "has been accused by some DepEd suppliers of fronting for some publishers, so if we put him there, it will be tainted," said Lapus, who added that Go could still contribute to the panel's work if he wanted to.

Contacted by phone, Go vowed to "take a close look and judge what will come out of [the oversight committee's] work."

"I'm not after prestige. I have to do this because of my advocacy to correct flagrant factual and grammatical errors in textbooks," Go said.

Go has repeatedly chided the DepEd for its "inadequate and misleading" 21-page Errata Guide aimed at correcting factual and grammatical errors in civics and culture textbooks distributed to public schools nationwide.

"The guide gave the public the impression that everything's okay already. But the Errata Guide itself has at least 105 errors. The guide needs some more corrections itself," he said.

The DepEd recently distributed more than 70,000 copies of the guide, printed by the publishers of the textbooks in question—Vibal Publishing House, LG & M Corp. and Mary Jo Publishing House.

Lapus said at least 40 civil society organizations are helping the DepEd in closely monitoring the textbook procurement and distribution systems.

"The issue of erroneous textbooks lingers. But with the cooperation of well-meaning groups, considerable improvements have been achieved even as we pursue reforms in the department," he said.

Starting this year and "beginning with the procurement of English textbooks, the bidding for textbook content has been separated from the bidding for printing," Lapus said. *Jerry E. Esplanada*

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Laptops customs men's undoing

TWO BUREAU OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS ASsigned to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport have been suspended for negligence and dishonesty in letting a shipment of undeclared laptop computers slip through.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales yesterday ordered the preventive suspension of Alfredo Cruz, chief of the public assistance unit at the Paircargo Warehouse Special Collection Unit at Naia, and Rizalino Calderon, customs examiner at the same warehouse.

In separate orders signed by Morales, Cruz and Calderon were administratively charged with "gross negligence of duty, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service and dishonesty."

Morales said the charges stemmed from the seizure of a shipment of 50 Dell Inspiron laptop computers at the Naia on April 2.

Customs records showed the importer had declared the computers to be portable lamps.

"Calderon was suspended after he miserably failed to perform his duty and responsibility and made a [report] without any basis whatsoever—making it appear that he had conducted an examination, which is tantamount to dishonesty," Morales said in the order.

Cruz, on the other hand, was charged with failure to check Calderon's work. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces the opening of the positions of **Chairman of the Legal Education Board (LEB)** and **LEB regular members**, namely, a representative of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP); a representative of the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS); a representative from the ranks of active law practitioners; and, a representative from the law students' sector.

The LEB Chairman shall preferably be a former Justice of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. With the execution of the representative of the law students' sector, the Chairman and regular members of the Board must be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and members of the Philippine Bar, who have been engaged for at least ten (10) years in the practice of law, as well as in the teaching of law in a duly authorized or recognized law school (Section 4, Republic Act No 7662).

Applications or recommendations for these positions must be submitted **NOT LATER THAN 24 September 2007** to the JBC, 2nd Floor, Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512; Fax No. 552-9598; e-mail address jbc@supremecourt.gov.ph; JBC supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph) together with six (6) copies of the following:

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Proof of Natural-born Filipino Citizenship
Certificate of Admission to Bar (with Bar Rating)
Certificate of Good Standing or latest Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer
Certification as to the number of years in the practice of law, as well as in the teaching of law in a duly authorized or recognized law school
Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Office of the Bar Confidant and employer
Transcript of School Records
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The JBC also announces that the schedule of the panel interview of Justices REMEDIOS S. FERNANDO and JOSE L. SABIO, JR., candidates for the position of *Associate Justice of the Supreme Court*, is reset from 28 September to **3 October 2007, at 9:00 a.m.**

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(PDI—September 14, 2007)

Turk ousted from RP

A TURKISH NATIONal has been deported for illegally recruiting Filipino workers for the Middle East, the Bureau of Immigration said yesterday.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said Mustafa Akcay, 47, was deported to Ankara, Turkey, last week pursuant to an order issued by the BI board of commissioners.

Libanan said the board also ordered the Turk placed on the immigration blacklist to prevent his reentry into the country.

He said Akcay was also fined P50,000 as additional penalty.

Records showed Akcay was arrested at his office at Best One International Services and Consultancy Inc. on San Marcelino Street, Malate, Manila, on Aug. 8.

Akcay was unable to present a work permit to agents of the BI Law Enforcement Division (LED), Libanan said. His travel records showed he had been frequenting the country as a tourist. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

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JDV III: Abalos bugged me, he even admitted it

From page A1

affidavit, asked to meet with De Venecia and officials of AHI "to negotiate for acceptable contractual terms."

"I informed Chairman Abalos via text message that it appeared that a compromise deal might be in the offing," said De Venecia's affidavit.

The wiretapping admission, said the affidavit, came after Abalos arranged a meeting with De Venecia at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club with Elmer Soneja, transportation and communications assistant secretary and one of the key figures in the ZTE deal.

De Venecia said he was with AHI consultant Richard Pratte at that meeting.

Angry call

After that meeting, the affidavit said, De Venecia received an angry call from Abalos, but didn't know why at first.

"Chairman Abalos called me up and started screaming, shouting invectives at me," he said in his affidavit.

"*Salbahe kang bata ka. P....ina mo, kung alam lang ng tatay mo ang ginagawa mo, p....ina mo* (You're a bad kid. SOB, if your Dad only knew what you were doing, SOB)," De Venecia recalled Abalos telling him on the phone.

De Venecia said he was startled and didn't know what made Abalos blow his top, "until in the middle of his ranting, he said that 'I tapped your telephone.'"

Abalos, according to the affidavit, had monitored De Venecia's phone and found that the businessman had been telling ZTE officials that the biggest obstacle to the broadband deal was Abalos himself because the Comelec chair "wanted a $130-million kickback from the project."

"Isn't that illegal?" De Venecia recalled telling Abalos when informed of the wiretapping during their phone conversation.

"*Gusto mo ng transcript* (You want a transcript?)" he recalled Abalos as saying in reply.

Gangland-style dealing

The affidavit narrated the gangland-style dealings that De Venecia said led to the signing of a $329-million supply contract to build the NBN by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong on April 21 in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In the affidavit, De Venecia said the first time he met Abalos about the broadband deal was at breakfast at the house of his father, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., sometime in December last year.

"At the breakfast, Chairman Abalos expressed his desire to cooperate with AHI in building the NBN network," the younger De Venecia's affidavit said.

After that meeting, he said, Abalos arranged for another breakfast meeting at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club that was also attended by Ruben Reyes, Leo San Miguel, Jimmy Paz and Edgar Dula Torre.

Reyes, a businessman who lives in Wack Wack Subdivision, is a schoolmate and close friend of President Macapagal-Arroyo's younger brother, Diosdado Jr., in La Salle and a golfing buddy of Abalos at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

His name was mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes as discussing with ex-Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano the chances of two party-list groups identified with the Arroyo administration.

Little is known of San Miguel. Paz is Abalos' chief of staff while Dula Torre is a former ranking police officer.

Why they were there at the meeting wasn't clear.

"During that meeting, it became apparent that Chairman Abalos was backing ZTE's effort to undertake the NBN project," said De Venecia's affidavit.

"Chairman Abalos told me: 'Joey, I want to do something when I retire, I want to pursue something in the telecommunications industry,'" it said.

Bribe offer

"He offered me Ten Million United States Dollars ... in exchange for AHI's backing off and withdrawing completely from the NBN project, saying that I should let him be, as the project would be, in his words, his 'last hurrah,'" the affidavit said.

Abalos had denied the allegations, but admitted he knew some ZTE officials because they were his golfing buddies.

He said he would answer De Venecia's allegations in the proper forum.

De Venecia said he declined Abalos' offer and instead, offered the Comelec chair the position of director or chair of AHI, "but he did not agree to the same."

He said it wasn't the last time he would hear from Abalos.

Abalos set up a meeting at his Comelec office with De Venecia.

At the meeting in Comelec, "I found in attendance DOTC Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso III."

Formoso was the first official who announced the loss of the Philippine government's copy of the April 21 supply contract with ZTE.

In a previous interview by phone with the INQUIRER, Formoso said he and other proponents of the ZTE deal were ready to defend it.

"This is not an overnight deal," he told the INQUIRER.

'My partner'

De Venecia said Abalos introduced him to Formoso as "my partner."

"Chairman Abalos' introducing me as 'his partner' is not entirely without basis," De Venecia's affidavit said. "As I, on several occasions, flatly (but respectfully) refused his offer of $10,000,000 to pull out AHI's unsolicited (broadband) proposal, [and] he had broached the idea of a partnership between AHI and ZTE instead."

More meetings, according to De Venecia, took place between him and Abalos, who "would consistently request for meetings ... so that he could convince me to either back off from the deal or be his 'partner.'"

"All told, we had about five or six meetings during the period (December 2006)," he said in his affidavit.

The requests for meetings brought them to Shenzen, China also sometime in December last year (the affidavit said December 2007, a typographical error) where Abalos was to introduce De Venecia to officials of the ZTE.

De Venecia said "I initially begged off ... as I already had previous dealings with ZTE, as former chairman of Broadband Philippines."

Broadband Philippines' equipment supplier was ZTE.

Kempinski Hotel

On Abalos' insistence, De Venecia said, a meeting was held Dec. 27, 2006, with ZTE officials at the Kempinski Hotel, "which I knew to be the favorite hangout of ZTE officials."

At that meeting with Abalos and De Venecia in Shenzen, De Venecia said in his affidavit, were ZTE vice president Yu Yong, ZTE director Fan Yang "and some other company officers."

Also present were the same people who were at the Wack Wack meeting—Ruben Reyes, Leo San Miguel, Edgar Dula Torre and Jimmy Paz.

De Venecia said at that meeting, "I was again introduced by Chairman Abalos as his partner," but it wasn't the introduction that shocked him.

"Chairman Abalos demanded from the ZTE officials the money promised him, because he claimed that 'the President and the Speaker' were waiting for it," he said in his affidavit.

Name dropping

"I am certain that throughout my meetings with Chairman Abalos, that my President and the Speaker, my father, absolutely had no inkling about the details and absurdities in this project," said De Venecia's affidavit.

He said he asked to be allowed to talk with Abalos in private, during which "I told him it was highly inappropriate and wrong to mention the names of my President and the Speaker."

"I told him (Abalos) that my President and the Speaker are well-respected in China, and that his words to the ZTE officials were simply unacceptable," said De Venecia's affidavit.

'What about money we advanced?'

When he returned to the meeting with Abalos, De Venecia said, "Abalos insisted on getting the money promised him."

"ZTE officials, however, stated that they would release the money only after the 'loan documents' were finalized," said De Venecia.

"At this point, when ZTE officials refused to hand over the money (that) Chairman Abalos was asking for, he started banging his fists on the table and started shouting at the ZTE officials, who refused to budge," said the affidavit.

But one Chinese official, said the affidavit, "countered with a question."

"What about the money we already advanced, Mr. Chairman?" De Venecia recalled ZTE director Fan Yang as asking when Abalos allegedly insisted on getting the money.

"Chairman Abalos could offer no response."

After the ZTE director asked the question, "the meeting abruptly ended."

Diamond Hotel

After the Shenzen meeting, De Venecia said he was again invited by Abalos to another meeting sometime in January, this time at the Diamond Hotel in Manila, also with ZTE officials.

During that meeting, Abalos said the contract was best signed in front of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, who was then in Manila.

After that meeting, the affidavit said, De Venecia was sought out by ZTE officials.

Mendoza's son

De Venecia said in March 2007, he went to his father's house where he chanced upon Mendoza, who was asking the Speaker to support his son's congressional bid in Batangas.

Mendoza's son is now a member of the House of Representatives.

De Venecia said he saw this as an opportunity and approached Mendoza to discuss the NBN.

"Secretary Mendoza responded by saying, 'your project, Joey, is a big problem as Chairman Abalos is so angry at you and wants the NBN project for himself,'" the affidavit said.

Mendoza, the affidavit said, brokered a reconciliation meeting between De Venecia and Abalos, also at Wack Wack and in the presence of the same people who were in previous two meetings—Ruben Reyes, Leo San Miguel, Jimmy Paz and Edgar Dula Torre.

At that meeting, De Venecia quoted Abalos as saying "he has forgiven me for what I did."

But Abalos "continued to push me into backing out of the NBN project." *With a report from Beverly T. Natividad* ▲

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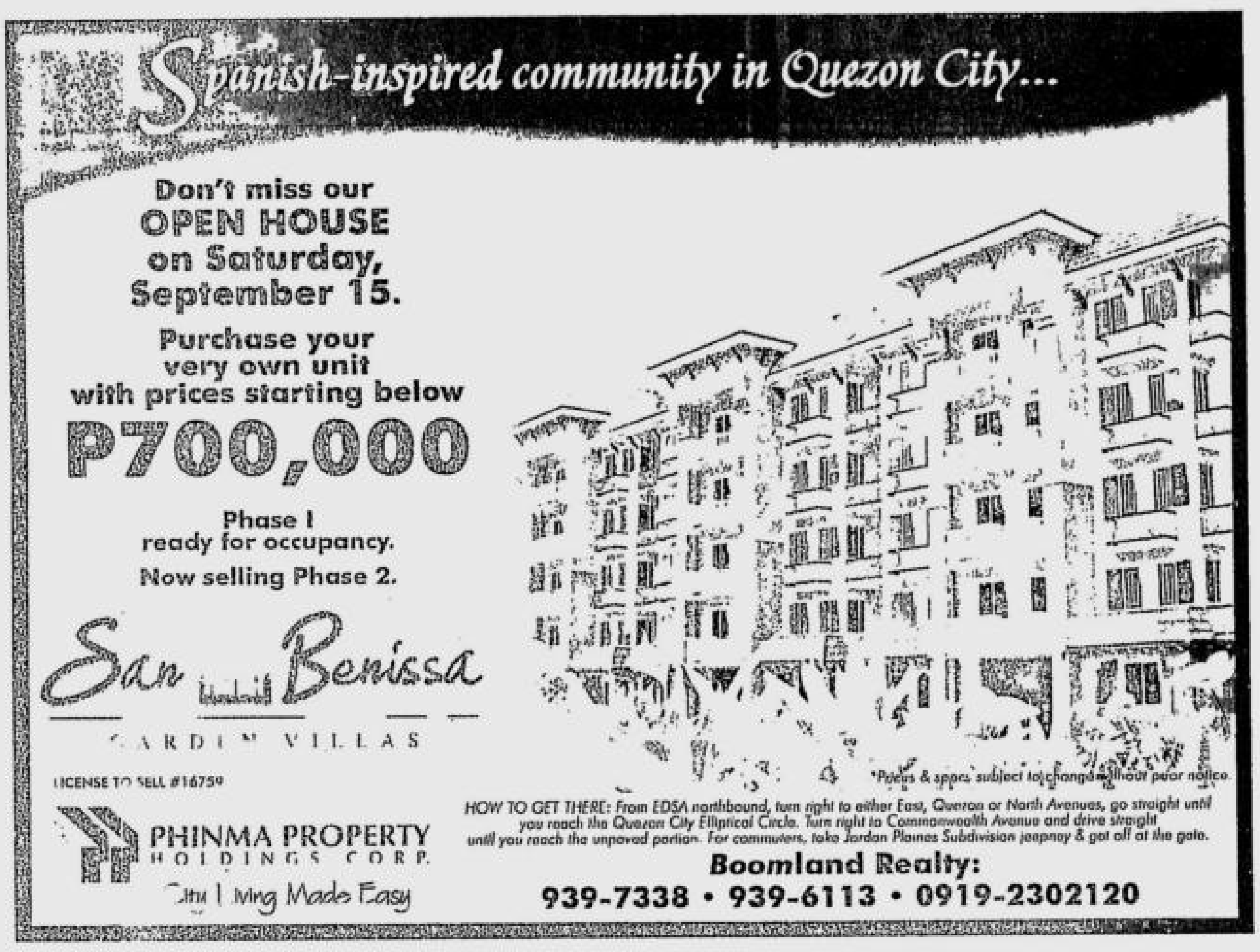
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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Supply and installation of various Gym and Recreational Equipment for the SPC Recreational and Sports Center, 3rd Floor, Bldg. E, Security Plant Complex, BSP East Avenue, Q.C., per BSP floor plans and standard technical specifications, as follows

		Approved Budget For the Contract
Category 1 – Gym Equipment		
	One (1) unit Heavy-Duty Motorized Treadmill	P 644,000.00
	One (1) unit Multi-Press Machine	179,000.00
	One (1) unit Dual Adjustable Pulley	122,000.00
	One (1) unit Elliptical Cross Trainer	573,000.00
	One (1) unit Smith Machine	188,000.00
	One (1) unit Indoor Rowing Machine	145,000.00
	Six (6) sets 5' Olympic bars	30,000.00
	One (1) lot Dumbells (various weights) with Steel Cabinet or racking	85,000.00
	Eighteen (18) units Large Aerobic Steps	144,000.00
10.	One (1) lot Barbell Plates (various weights)	125,000.00
11.	Two (2) units Flat Bench	20,000.00
12.	Two (2) units Olympic Bench Press Set	30,000.00
Category 2 – Recreational Equipment		
1	Two (2) sets Table Tennis tables complete with accessories	P 36,000.00
2.	One (1) lot Billiard Table complete with accessories	170,000.00
3.	Four (4) lot Chess Table complete with accessories	30,000.00
4.	One (1) lot Standard Pool Table complete with accessories	45,000.00
	Two (2) sets Dart Board complete with accessories	7,000.00

Delivery Period: Within eighty-five (85) calendar days after receipt of the approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from Y2002 to present amounting to at least 50% of the item with the highest ABC under the category to be bid. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as, as follows.

Activities		Schedule
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 13 September 2007 up to 2:00 P.M. only
2	Pre-bid Conference	28 September 2007, 2:00 P.M.
3.	Opening of Bids	16 October 2007, 2:00 P.M.
4	Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR-A) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2002.
5	Post-qualification	
6.	Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidder upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 or 0.05% of the total ABC's of items to be bid out, whichever is higher, to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – September 14, 2007)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Construction of New DBP Marbel Branch Building

The **Development Bank of the Philippines**, **Marbel Branch** through its **2007 Corporate Budget** intends to apply the sum of **Eight Million** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **The Construction of a New DBP Marbel Branch Building**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for **The Construction of a New Branch Building.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before **October 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** at **DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **October 12, 2007,10:00 a.m. at DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at **DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City** on or before **October 12, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.**

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **10:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.** on or before **October 22, 2007**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred (P3,500.00) Pesos**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **October 22, 2007, 3:00 p.m.**

The **Development Bank of the Phillippines, Marbel Branch** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 23, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** at **DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City**

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **October 29, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of **Cash or Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Surety Bond** and in the amount of **1.0%, 1.0% & 2.5% of ABC, respectively** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **October 29, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.who choose to attend at the address below at **2:00 p.m. on October 29, 2007**.

Completion of the Works is within **180 days from the Notice to Proceed.**

The **Development Bank of the Philippines**, Marbel Branch reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DBP, Marbel Branch
NOECHITA ANDAYA
Koronadal City
Tel. # (083) 228-2429/228-3118
Fax # (083) 228-3667

(Sgd.) **ATTY ELVIE EULLARAN-ALBANO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 14 & 21, 2007)

Now, AFP won't issue Jonas report

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES will not release just yet a copy of the Provost Marshal General's report on the investigation into the loss of a car license plate in its custody.

The license plate, which was seen on a vehicle that was used in the kidnapping of activist Jonas Burgos, was traced to a vehicle in the custody of the 5th Infantry Battalion in Bulacan.

The AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. earlier said he was willing to release the report to comply with an order from the Court of Appeals.

At a hearing yesterday, however, Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang explained that Esperon made the statement in the context of exhausting all legal remedies, like the filing of a motion for reconsideration.

The appellate court earlier denied the Solicitor General's motion to quash the subpoena for the report of Provost Marshal General Col. Arthur Abadilla concerning the loss of the license plate, saying the life and liberty of Jonas took precedence.

The court's 7th Division is hearing the petition for habeas corpus for Jonas that his mother Edita filed against the military and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tang was asked by Edita's lawyer, Ricardo Fernandez, at yesterday's hearing about Esperon's statement that he was willing to submit a copy of the report to comply with the court's order.

But Tang said Esperon had only agreed to the filing of a motion for reconsideration.

"He [Esperon] is not a lawyer, that's why he answered in that manner. When he said it, he said it in the context of the filing of a motion for reconsideration," Tang told the court.

She later explained to reporters that the chief of staff was unable to explain the intent to file a motion for reconsideration when he was interviewed by the media. She said she would file the motion for reconsideration on Monday at the latest.

She also said it was possible that if the appellate court once again denied the government's motion, they might take the issue all the way to the Supreme Court.

At the hearing yesterday, Police Supt. Jonnel Estomo, who conducted a parallel probe of Jonas' disappearance, said he did not consider as suspects in Jonas' disappearance the three military officers whose names were linked to the incident with the license plate.

Estomo said that based on the statements submitted by Lt. Colonels Noel Clement, Melquiades Feliciano and Edison Caga, he concluded that they had nothing to do with the abduction.

Feliciano heads the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion that had custody of the vehicle to which the license plate was registered. He replaced Clement in the post. But before Feliciano assumed the position, Caga was temporarily 56th IB head.

Estomo said the only reason the 56th IB was mentioned was because the license plate used by the kidnappers was in their custody.

He said he was unable to find out how the license plate ended up with Jonas' abductors, adding that he wanted to question Mauro Mudlong, the registered owner of the plate.

Mudlong's vehicle was confiscated by the 56th IB. Estomo said he invited Mudlong for questioning, but the latter did not show up.

Leila B. Salaverria

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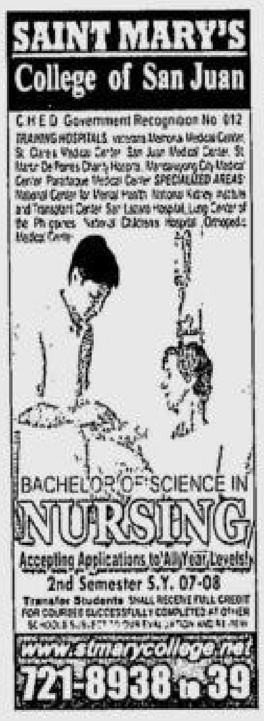

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on September 27, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., 12/F, Suite 5, Executive Lounge of the DBP Head Office, Sen.Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Minimum Bid
REAL ESTATE METRO MANILA				
AM-RP- 46	Residential lot (TCT No.T-100570) with bldg. & imp.	253	No. 23 Sangumay St. corner Mariposa St., Manuela Subd., Phase III-A Pamplona, Las Pinas City	P 1,560,300.00
BATANGAS				
PSM-01	Two (2) adjoining parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-108495 & T-108496)	3,165	Ayala Highway, Barangay Balintawak, North Lipa City	P 29,118,000.00
IRIGA				
AM-ML- 47	Three (3) adjoining parcels of commercial lots (TCT Nos. 2004, 2005 & 2006) with hotel & commercial bldgs., facilities, machinery & equipment	5,154	San Francisco, Iriga City	P 23,000,000.00
NUEVA ECIJA				
AM-RP- 48	Residential lot (TCT No.T-118073) with bldg. & imp.	100	Lot 15-Blk.1, Vista Amor Subd., Brgy. Bangad, Cabanatuan City	P 301,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor (for Code starting with AM) and at WSD, PSM Basement (for Code starting with PSM), DBP Head Office during office hours;
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers 892-1568 or 818-9511 locals 2117/2169/2168 for Code starting with AM and 818-9511 local 2000/2001 for Code starting with PSM.

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(PDI–Sept. 14 & 15, 2007)

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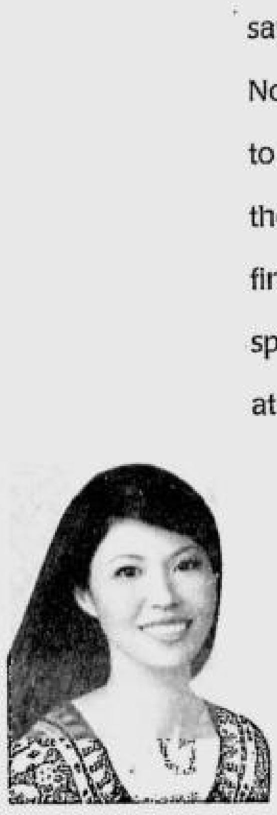


6.1 earthquake hits Mindanao; storm skirts RP

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A MAGNITUDE 6.1 earthquake shook several areas of Mindanao yesterday afternoon, after a series of powerful jolts that triggered a small tsunami hit the Sumatra region in Indonesia. ***(See story in The World, Page A28.)***

No damage was reported in the 5:48 p.m. quake that was traced to some 315 km southeast of General Santos City, according to the local Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology office.

Edward Lauron of the local Phivolcs office said yesterday's quake could have been an aftershock of the Indonesia tremor.

He said no tsunami warning was issued in the aftermath of the quake.

Lauron said the quake, at a depth of 47 km, was felt at intensity 3 in General Santos. It was at intensity 2 in this city and Davao.

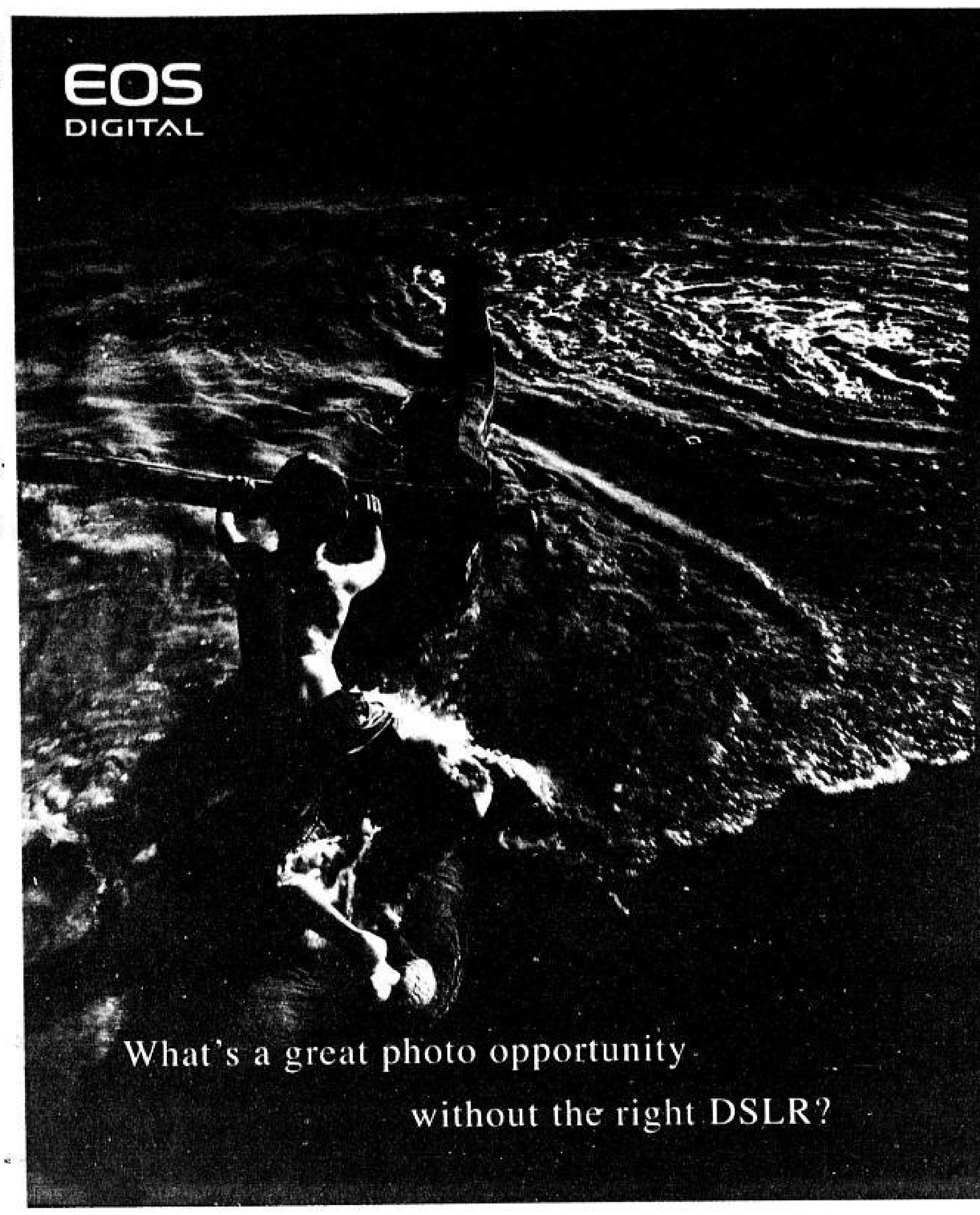
The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, meanwhile, said yesterday a tropical storm had entered the Philippine area of responsibility, but it won't hit land or bring heavy rains.

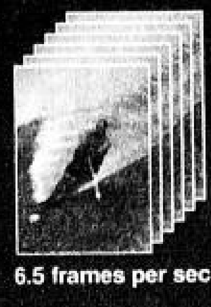
Storm "Falcon" will not hit any part of the archipelago as it exits toward Japan this afternoon or tonight, Pagasa said.

But the storm (international name: Nari) will induce the southwest monsoon to bring "light to moderate rain" to southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, weather forecaster Rene Paciente said.

"It has no direct effect, but it will enhance the southwest monsoon," Paciente said in a phone interview.

The storm, the first this month and the sixth this year, was hovering over the Philippine Sea 1,090 km east northeast of Batanes as of 2 p.m. yesterday, according to Pagasa. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, and TJ Burgonio*





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From page A1

Ms Arroyo also created a Pro-Performance Infrastructure Monitoring Group.

She announced the creation of the monitoring bodies during the launch of the Bishops-Ulama Conference (BUC) Armed Forces of the Philippines-Philippine National Police Forum for Peace at Malacañang's Rizal Hall late Wednesday.

"This is what the people of the nation deserve," she said.

"And I would like to report to our good bishops-ulamas that to ensure transparency and good governance in our massive public investments, we are creating … a procurement transparency group," Ms Arroyo said.

She said the PTG, which was approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday, shall "ensure transparency and good governance in our massive public investments."

The PTG will be chaired by the Department of Budget and Management, with members from the Department of Justice, the Department of Interior and Local Governments, other economic planning departments.

It will be under the supervision of the Government Procurement Policy Board.

Graft-prone dep'ts

The President said PTG members would sit as "observers in government and awards committee" in graft-prone departments and agencies such as the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Public Works and Highways and Bureau of Customs.

The creation of the two bodies came in the wake of calls from international and local groups to curb corruption in the public sector.

Early this year, the Asian Development Bank urged the government to curb corruption in public procurement, as this hampers fiscal development goals.

The ADB suggested that the Philippine government enact a law against corrupt procurement personnel.

The World Bank, another major lender to the Philippines, earlier said the government had to strengthen its anticorruption reforms to sustain its efforts to trim the budget deficit.

Also this year, the Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN) said that the shroud of secrecy surrounding high-level government contracts had led to the rise of "grander" and more lucrative corrupt practices in the Arroyo administration.

TAN's observation that more lucrative corrupt practices were increasing supports foreign businessmen's perception of corruption in the country.

Asked early this year by the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) to assess the corruption problem in the public sector, the businessmen gave an average score of nine in the PERC grading system, zero is the best possible score and 10 the worst.

A survey conducted by Social Weather Stations from March 4 to May 11 found that the scale of corruption in the government remained high.

Ms Arroyo said the PTG would train and field external observers in government and awards committee nationwide.

The transparency group "shall monitor procurement bidding and report anomalies to agency heads as well as governance bodies like the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit," she said.

Lapus guidelines

Malacañang sources said the first to be scrutinized by the body would be DepEd's Bids and Awards Committees following a controversial directive issued by Education Secretary Jesli Lapus prescribing a list of approved supplementary and reference materials.

In DepEd Order No. 52 dated Aug. 3, 2007, Lapus issued "guidelines" to be followed in the purchase of textbooks and teacher's manuals by DepEd offices and local government units through the Special Education Fund or other non-DepEd funds.

While basic textbooks will continue to be given priority in the allocation of funds, "only textbooks included in the List of Textbooks and Teacher's Manuals Most Recently Procured" may be acquired.

The department order contained a list of average unit prices at which the textbooks were procured through international competitive bidding.

"Thus, purchasing entities may use this as basis in negotiating for discounts from suppliers particularly when large volume of purchases are involved, in order to secure the best terms for the government," it said.

However, the list is a virtual endorsement of favored publishers and suppliers because it contained names of book publishers, prompting other suppliers to cry foul.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that a group of publishing houses and sister companies had been cornering huge textbook contracts since the Estrada administration.

The so-called textbook cartel was also blamed by educator Antonio C. Go for publishing textbooks with historical, grammatical, syntactical and other errors.

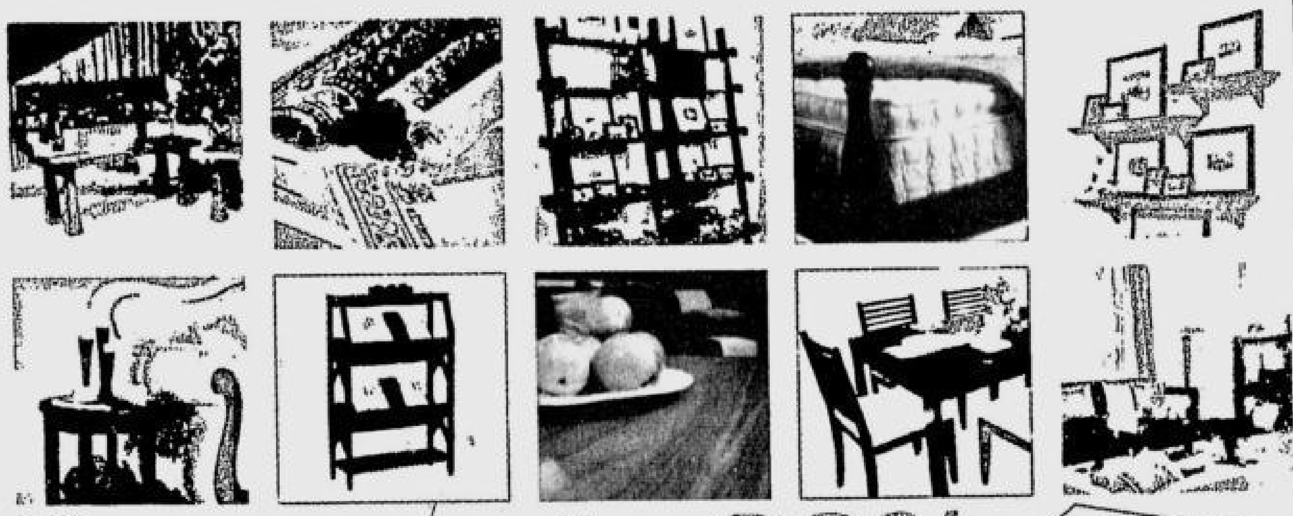
The latest controversial bidding occurred on May 28 when DepEd bid out P1.2 billion worth of textbooks for printing.

Allegations of anomalies prompted DepEd to award only P429 million, with the rest scheduled for re-bidding next month.

Infra monitoring group

Ms Arroyo said the Cabinet had also approved the creation of a separate infrastructure monitoring group, "which shall also harness civil society and the private sector in ensuring that public works projects serve the needs and objectives for which they are undertaken, and contract terms and timetables are complied with."

She announced the creation of the two bodies as she revealed that her administration had already created six million jobs in six years, which has "helped raise wages, lower the rate of poverty—even the World Bank and the ADB say that."



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Isuzu Challenge 2007 Roadtrip Champion's list

Category	ISUZU ALTERRA	ISUZU D-MAX	ISUZU CROSSWIND
Winning team	Oscar Nuke & Dave Aquino	Dennis Belda & Renato Palad, Jr.	Ron Delos Reyes & Lester Dizon
Fuel efficiency rating	24.717 KM / Liter	24.172 KM / Liter	22.581 KM / Liter

Runners up:

2nd place
Isuzu Alterra division - Ronald Aguto & Hazel Aguto 24.093 km/Liter
Isuzu D-MAX division - Christian Alday & Pastor Angulo 21.843 km/Liter
Isuzu Crosswind division - James Villaflores & Michael Villaflores 21.826 km/Liter

3rd place
Isuzu Alterra division - Anjo Perez & Pinky Colmenares 18.195 km/Liter
Isuzu D-MAX division - Archie Cabuyao & Buen Cabuyao 20.746 km/Liter
Isuzu Crosswind division - Ronnie Cruz & Fortunato Santos 21.118 km/Liter

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Magnificent

EDITORIAL

THE MOTION OF DEFENSE COUNSEL TO DISpense with a full reading of the Sandiganbayan decisions in the perjury and plunder cases against Joseph Estrada has allowed the ex-president, his family and his allies to fudge the truth—and confuse the public.

This is unfortunate, because the rulings, especially the 262-page decision in the plunder case, are a clear example of solid, straightforward legal reasoning. There are certain errors, to be sure, such as an innocent confusion between the two Estrada vs. Sandiganbayan decisions upholding the constitutionality of the plunder law, but in the main the three Sandiganbayan justices outdid themselves: They sift confidently through the mass of evidence, organize the most salient, set forth their findings of fact—and then apply the law.

Every single assertion made by Estrada and his supporters since Wednesday's promulgation can be answered directly from the decision.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, for instance, assailed the court (the same court which acquitted him) for convicting his father on the illegal gambling charge. Since when did jueteng money, he asked for argument's sake, become public funds?

His question is irrelevant, because the plunder law penalizes any public official who systematically amasses ill-gotten wealth. The "public treasury" is only one of six possible sources of illegal wealth specified by the law. The sixth, in fact, can be understood as a catch-all condition: "By taking undue advantage of official position, authority, relationship, connection or influence to unjustly enrich himself or themselves at the expense and to the damage and prejudice of the Filipino people and the Republic of the Philippines." (The decision quotes this ringing line toward its conclusion.)

We have to remember that the plunder law—Republic Act 7080, as amended—came into being as a legislative reaction to the excesses of the Marcos regime. (Now **that** was plunder, on a grand, one-for-the-Guinness-book-of-world-records scale.) As Justice Josue Bellosillo of the Supreme Court wrote, over a decade after RA 7080 became law: "Drastic and radical measures are imperative to fight the increasingly sophisticated, extraordinarily methodical and economically catastrophic looting of the national treasury."

In its own decision, the Sandiganbayan quotes at length from the Explanatory Note to the Senate bill that helped lead to the plunder law. One passage reads: "The acts and/or omissions sought to be penalized do not involve simple cases of malversation of public funds, bribery, extortion, theft and graft but constitute plunder of an entire nation resulting in material damage to the national economy."

In this dark light, centralizing jueteng operations in Malacañang certainly qualifies as plunder.

Estrada himself took the court to task for issuing a "political" decision, saying he could not blame the justices because the Sandiganbayan's special division was "programmed to convict" him. A close reading of the decision on the plunder case, however, will show that—despite obvious pressure from both the Arroyo administration and from Estrada's political camp—the three members of the Sandiganbayan stuck scrupulously to the law's straight and narrow.

They acquitted the younger Estrada and the lawyer Ed Serapio because, in their assessment of the evidence, the prosecution failed to prove the case against the two co-accused beyond a reasonable doubt. They found that the Velarde account contained unimaginable wealth, but said the prosecution failed to prove the money was ill-gotten—except, that is, for P189 million, which they identified, beyond any doubt, as the commissions Estrada received from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares by the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System. The language of the decision reflects the quality of the reasoning: measured, assured, humane, just.

The Sandiganbayan's plunder decision reminds us again that, through the turmoil of the last seven lean years, beginning with Estrada's aborted impeachment trial in the Senate, the courts have played a leading role in holding our democracy together.

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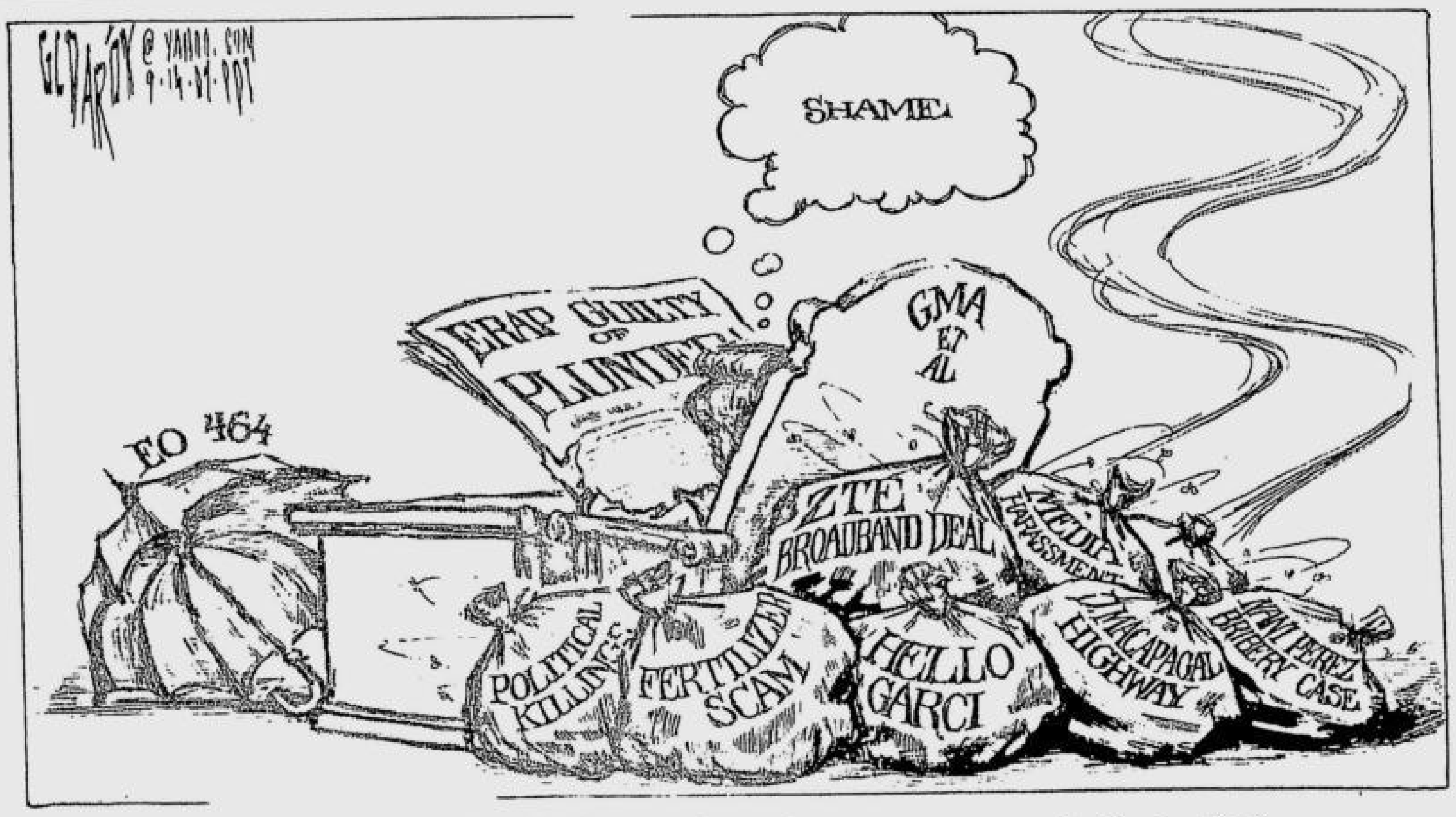

'Mother of all land titling scandals' (2)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(*Continued from last Wednesday*)

CLAIMANT JOSE DIMSON WAS ALSO ABLE to get a favorable but highly questionable decision from the Court of First Instance of Rizal which awarded "whatever remains of Lots 25-A, 26, 27, 28 and 29 of the Maysilo Estate" to him.

Subsequently, Lot 26 found its way into the hands of CLT Realty Development Corp. But as Lot 26 is owned by the Manotoks through expropriation proceedings, they have questioned the awarding of the lot to Dimson and subsequently to CLT.

Instituting civil cases for recovery of possession of his property against AIA and the Manotoks, Dimson was able to get the Caloocan RTC, in 1993, to order AIA and the Manotoks to vacate the property. The basis of the order was the presentation by Dimson of a copy of OCT 994 with an earlier date than the OCT 994 submitted by AIA. Dimson's copy of OCT 994 was dated April 19, 1917 while AIA's was dated May 3, 1917.

Following a decision in MWSS vs CA, in which the Supreme Court said that where there are two TCTs over the same land the earlier date prevails, the Caloocan RTC upheld Dimson's title.

The Court of Appeals sustained the lower court's decision, and even the Supreme Court, on a petition for review, upheld the Court of Appeals saying it is bound by the findings of fact of the lower court because it is not a trier of facts. But what if the facts are wrong, as in this case? OCT 994 dated April 19, 1917, which was upheld by the lower court, was found out later to be fake.

The Manotoks have also raised the following arguments:

(1) OCT 994 dated May 3, 1917 is the real OCT as it has been upheld by the LRA, the DOJ, the Senate and the Caloocan Register of Deeds. And now with the Supreme Court itself dismissing the two registrars of deeds who illegally changed the date of registration of Dimson's title to April 19, 1917, it is clear which claimant really owns the land.

(2) The Manotoks have a superior right of ownership because their title emanates from the Republic of the Philippines itself in whom paramount title to the land has been vested by expropriation. And even if the title by expropriation is discounted, the Manotok title can still be traced to OCT 994 dated May 3, 1917.

(3) The issue of whether or not only one valid OCT 994 was issued is of transcendental importance of which the Supreme Court should take cognizance because it involves a total of 1,660 hectares of prime land in Caloocan, Malabon and Quezon City where now stand various commercial buildings, high-rise condos, residential houses, schools and public buildings.

(4) The MWSS case does not apply to the present case because no pronouncement on the validity of Dimson's petition before the Caloocan CFI was made by the Court because AIA was not a party in the MWSS case and the issues raised in the MWSS case are different.

(5) Dimson's title was irregularly issued because it was made without the presentation of the owner's duplicate TCT of the transferor (Section 55, Land Registration Act) and corresponding subdivision plan approved by the Bureau of Lands or the LRA.

(6) It is highly improbable that Dimson's title came from OCT 994 because as early as 1920, the Maysilo Estate had already been partitioned and distributed to the different owners as shown in the cases of Bustamante vs Tuazon (47 PR 433), Dizon vs Rivera (48 PR 996), Republic vs Gonzales (94 PR 696) and Garcia vs CA (35 SCRA 380).

(7) In at least three cases pending in different courts, two in the Supreme Court and one in the Court of Appeals, the title of Dimson has been established to be spurious, nonexistent, fraudulent and of impossible origin (Phil-Ville Development and Housing Corp. vs CLT Realty Development Corp.-CA-GR CV 52606, Feb. 27, 2003; Alfonso vs Office of the President and Phil-Ville Development and Housing Corp.-GR 150091; and Republic of the Philippines vs Lilia Sevilla and Jose Seelin-CA GR CV 68299).

The Supreme Court will decide on the fate of some 300,000 individuals who have been in peaceful possession of their properties within the Maysilo Estate as well as major government institutions that have certain legal rights over the estate. The major institutions affected include government lands (450 hectares) from the Bonifacio Monument to portions of the North Expressway up to Edsa and MacArthur Highway; private institutions like the Manila Central University, De La-Salle Araneta University, and University of the East, private commercial buildings like the Ever Grand Central, Araneta Square, Bonifacio Market, Eternal Gardens Memorial Park and at least 64 barangays in Caloocan alone.

Already, unscrupulous groups have been threatening and harassing legitimate dwellers, property owners and taxpayers within the estate.

But the Supreme Court decision on the registrars of deeds should be enough basis for the tribunal to put an end once and for all to the legal battle and uncertainties over the Maysilo Estate. It is easy to determine which of the two claimants have a better right to the property. Dimson's claim has no legal standing whatsoever, as the Supreme Court itself has declared that the OCT from which he is basing his claim to ownership is a spurious, falsified document.

It is now obvious that Dimson and those claiming under him have no legal basis to claim ownership of the Maysilo Estate. They should not be allowed to wreak havoc on our land titling system.

* * *

TODAY'S ADVICE: Always welcome the night with a smile on your face, love in your heart, and good thoughts in your mind and you'll have a wonderful sleep.

The iniquity of selective prosecution

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE ERAP CONviction has been mixed because the issue that was decided by a court of law—namely, whether Erap was guilty or innocent—is inextricably bound up with an issue that can only be decided in the court of public opinion: whether we have treated the man fairly by prosecuting him while letting innumerable malevolent Malacañang allies get away scot free.

These are two separate and distinct discourses, each guided by a different set of rules. We confuse ourselves when we shuttle back and forth unconsciously, using the same term—justice—as if it meant the same thing in both contexts.

A court answers only the questions that it is asked. The Sandiganbayan is a criminal court, and was asked only whether the prosecution was able to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The Sandiganbayan gives "justice" by rendering a decision, to quote from its Erap verdict, "upon no other consideration other than the law and a review of the evidence on record." It wasn't asked—and it didn't answer—whether it was fair that Malacañang's friends are presumed to be innocent even as everybody and his mother know that they are guilty, while Malacañang's foes suffer the full brunt of the law.

The list of un-indicted culprits gets longer by the day. Barely four days after Edsa II, the new government hastily signs a controversial $470-million hydroelectric power plant, and turns it over to the Argentine firm Impsa. Has anyone been indicted?

In 2002, the Senate blue ribbon committee looks into the Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, supposedly the most expensive roadway—5.1 kilometers costing P1.1 billion—built at an alleged overprice of P600 million. Has anyone been indicted?

In 2003, the Supreme Court nullifies the Piatco concession agreement to build a new airport amid allegations of massive payoffs. Has anyone been indicted? So bribes truly were given and taken, but there are no bribe-givers nor -takers around who can be charged?

Before the 2004 elections, the Supreme Court strikes down the P1.3-billion Comelec computerization contract with the MegaPacific consortium. The Court issues a direct order to the Office of the Ombudsman to file graft charges against the erring Comelec officers. The Ombudsman drags its feet. The Kilosbayan had to file a petition before the Court to compel the Ombudsman to comply, which it does belatedly, and only half-heartedly.

During the 2004 elections, we learn that fertilizer funds had been diverted to GMA's campaign. Marilyn Esperat, the journalist who exposed the scam, was murdered in cold blood, in front of her own children. The gunmen have been convicted, but the charges implicating Agriculture Undersecretary Joc-Joc Bolante remain frozen. Why? Because the moment he is charged, he can be extradited from his sanctuary in the United States.

Just the other day, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order to stop the controversial $329-million broadband deal given to ZTE Corp. of China. Yet President Macapagal-Arroyo affirmed the next day that she would honor all contracts entered into by the government, citing the familiar refrain about the rule of law.

The trouble with the plunder conviction, therefore, is not that the Sandiganbayan was "a kangaroo court," as Erap charges. Apart from conspiracy theorists who conjure backdoor negotiations, the verdict shows that the Sandiganbayan relied upon facts proven before it on all the four charges filed against Erap.

Erap was convicted on only two of the charges, and cleared on the two others. He was found guilty on the first charge that he received P545 million in *jueteng* payoffs, and on the third, that he told the two pensions funds, GSIS and SSS, to buy corporate shares worth P1.847 billion and pocketed almost P190 million in commissions which he deposited in the Jose Velarde account in Equitable-PCI Bank. He was acquitted on the second charge that he diverted P130 million of a total collection of P200 million of the tobacco excise tax allocated for Ilocos Sur (the court called the prosecution evidence "farfetched" and "incredible"), and on the fourth, that the rest of the P3.233 billion in the Jose Velarde account was ill-gotten.

What makes the conviction political, rather, is that, in all the past corruption scandals in which no one has been charged, what all those lucky bastards have in common is that they are within the "circle of trust" of the powers in Malacañang. It is the partisanship in choosing who will be and who will not be prosecuted that taints the verdict.

The players in Wednesday's hearing paid homage to politics in ways merely "interstitial" (to use the old Holmesian phrase), isolated moments when they were acutely aware of how the people might react. The first was when defense counsel Jose Flaminiano asked the court to dispense with reading the whole decision and to read only the *dispositif*, that is to say, the final lines containing the verdict. Whether he wished to cut to the chase or just avoid the drudgery of 201 pages of boring facts, he certainly recognized the trial as theater.

The second was when Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, on her own, asked defense counsel whether they had any motions regarding the place of detention, showing a court sensitized to the dramatic power of an Erap hauled to Muntinlupa.

No, the message is not that even the big fish can now be convicted. Rather it is that the biggest fish in our small pond remains on top of the food chain, and gets to say who gets eaten and who gets to live. If the Erap plunder case was a "show trial," the lesson is not that we are all equal before the majesty of the law. It is, as Orwell said, that some are more equal than others, and woe unto those who cross the biggest fish of all.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@mail.com

Band of murderous brothers

COMMENTARY

Florin T. Hilbay

AS I READ THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF CRIS Mendez, I asked myself: What were his last thoughts before he died? How did he feel about being murdered slowly by the very people whose brotherhood he sought, and who promised him the glories their exclusive community offers? Did he beg his brothers to stop? Did he utter any dying words? Did he regret his decision to join Sigma Rho?

Did his initiators laugh at his pleas and think less of him? Did anyone among them feel he had overdone it? Or wonder why he had to inflict such pain on a fellow human being? Are they remorseful, or do they feel they are now compelled to lie because, anyway, they didn't intend his death?

The death of Mendez, far from being an unfortunate accident incidental to the rituals of entry among fraternities, invites a deep reflection into the shallowness of the foundations that bind many communities in our "premiere" university. It is also an occasion to think about the culture of institutionalized violence still pervasive in an establishment where future leaders of this country are trained.

Is the decision to join a fraternity a mark of dependency, or ignorance, or chauvinism, or opportunism? Or is it indicative of the failure of the university to provide avenues for a meaningful college life beyond the limited classroom experience? Does it evince a failure on the part of teachers to relate their academic work to the larger human project of reducing pain and suffering? What kind of environment has UP become that it regularly breeds people who will maim and kill one another because a brod was stared at by someone from a rival fraternity? What kind of mind-set is required to transform intelligent young scholars into thugs whose claim to fame is the number of rumbles they've been in and "hits" they've done?

I offer three proposals as we reflect on these questions.

First, I invite the UP administration to tap the intellectual resources of its diverse faculty to study ways and means by which the university can deal at an institutional level with the culture of violence that has long hounded this public institution. We owe it to the nation to justify why until now a segment of the best and the brightest in our country end up becoming unrepentant murderers. A university-wide summit on campus violence where explanations and proposals for lasting solutions are presented, debated and acted upon will be a good first step. The university should now realize that suspensions and expulsions are no match to the kind of entrenched culture it is up against. Needless to state, the students, and any faculty member, directly or indirectly involved in Mendez's murder should be prosecuted with uncompromising vigor.

Second, the university should consider selective bans on organizations with a history of violence. Only an unsophisticated lawyer incapacitated by doctrinal thinking will worry about the right to association of groups that have an identifiable involvement with brutality and murder. A reasonably focused ban to address the undeniable interest of the university to promote a peaceful academic environment can withstand a perfunctory constitutional challenge. The constitutional right to associate is not an absolute. It is part of the larger right to free speech and express oneself through organizing. I seriously doubt whether any group whose core tradition includes beating initiates to near-death—or death—in violation of a law designed precisely to penalize such activities, qualifies for constitutional protection. Those who have passing familiarity with this right will recognize its salience in the narrative of committed communities who have been stigmatized for their race, beliefs, gender and in many instances today, sexual orientation. A fraternity that commits murder even as it extols the virtues of non-violence and academic excellence has no protected speech value to communicate. By their acts ye shall know them, and not by their innocuous, noble-sounding mottos.

Third, the UP community must find the courage, whether in outrage or in hope, to convince the reasonable members of Sigma Rho to participate not only in condemning those responsible for this atrocity but in bringing them to justice. In addition, we must convince them to acknowledge the possibility, if not the fact, that the illustrious fraternity they have known and been proud of for its academic excellence and leadership is no longer the same organization, even though it still carries the same label. We must invite them into this conversation.

It is a testament to the tragedy of public education in this country that at a time when the academic standing of UP in the international scholarly community is faltering, we are faced with the baser, though nonetheless important, concern for ensuring that our students do not end up killing one another in some barbaric rite of passage.

As a scholar, I dream of an institution where students and colleagues can talk about ideas and their impact on the way we organize ourselves and attempt to become politically relevant; where we engage the young to theorize their society in order that they may become practical citizens; where we connect ourselves with the moral teachings of the past as we march half-blind into the future. As I think these thoughts and dream with romantic idealism, I hear the loud chanting to the heart-thumping drumbeats: *"Iskolar ng bayan! Mamamatay tao!"*

Florin T. Hilbay was the 1999 bar topnotcher and holds an LLM from Yale. He is vice chair of Bantay Katarungan and an assistant professor at the University of the Philippines College of Law.

A non-event

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I DON'T KNOW HOW I EXPECTED TO FEEL AFTER hearing the clerk of court of the Sandiganbayan read the verdict in the case of plunder against former President Joseph Estrada. Certainly, I didn't expect to be surprised by the outcome. An acquittal would have opened a new, super-sized can of worms for the Arroyo administration, and even if they weren't pressured in any way by the executive, the justices sitting in the graft court may not have wanted to be the Pandoras introducing war, famine and pestilence into our current affairs.

I wasn't surprised, but I at least expected to feel ... something. Instead, there was emptiness, a quiet bowing to the inevitable, but also hollowness in my soul. Six years after the onset of the trial, one would have expected to feel some sense of vindication for everyone who had trooped to the Edsa Shrine after the Senate vote on the "second envelope," lit candles, made sandwiches. One would have expected some feeling of righteousness, after the shock and dismay of "Edsa Tres."

But even those who had presumably taken part in that May 1 madness, the Erap die-hards who peopled every rally of the Erap forces and who, ever-reliable, showed up once more at Commonwealth Avenue for the trial's conclusion, didn't seem to know what to feel, either.

Sure, there was dramatic TV footage of tearful Erap loyalists, including the white-haired Armida Siguion Reyna who indeed appeared and sounded sincerely grieving. But even these isolated scenes didn't add up to the expected cataclysm. The ralliers on Commonwealth Avenue and those taking part in a noise barrage in San Juan were expectedly indignant, but their massing did not erupt in violence. Instead, when it began to rain, they quietly dispersed. Time was when their resolve withstood even water cannons and tear gas.

* * *

I SUPPOSE we should all be heaving sighs of relief. No one—not even Erap, if we are to believe his protestations—wanted the sort of apocalyptic scenes that attended his arrest and detention.

But this anti-climactic denouement, and the subdued reactions to a truly historic moment, should be cause for concern. For decades, we had cried and ranted, rallied and demanded, for the arrest, trial and conviction of a "big fish," a senior official whose disgrace and downfall would send a loud signal to all thieves and thieves-in-the-making in government. Now that it has happened, where is the anger, or even the triumph?

The easy answer to that, of course, is that in replacing Erap with GMA, the nation doesn't seem to have gained anything, not even the example of good governance that had been promised to us that bright morning in front of the Edsa Shrine. What we have played these past six years seems to have been a zero-sum game: the abuses and scandals of the Arroyo administration canceling out the sins of the Erap regime.

But there is an answer to that, and it was provided by the leader of a small group of demonstrators whose acronym isn't among the familiar alphabet soup of radicals, oppositionists and anti-GMA groups. "This is a warning to Gloria," he told an interviewer. "If it can happen to Erap, it can happen to her."

* * *

THE EVENING before the verdict, I had dinner with a group of women friends and, anticipating what would transpire the next day, we began reminiscing about the events that led to Wednesday's verdict. Though the protest actions began almost immediately after Estrada took office, and many of us had taken part in them, it was the period of the impeachment that we remembered most vividly.

We all wondered how we could have spent hours sitting before our TV sets, or glued to our radios, following the proceedings at the trial. We recalled the highlights: the dramatic testimony of Clarissa Ocampo, Sergio Apostol addressing a woman on the stand as "Madam Wetness," Miriam Defensor-Santiago's jousting with first, a young woman lawyer and then, Sen. Raul Roco, followed by her outburst against two women in the gallery who were boldly eyeing her. We remembered how dinner parties in those days began no earlier than 9 p.m., only after each hearing ended. And we asked ourselves: How could such passion and fervor, such hope and aspirations, cool down so quickly, be dashed so easily?

True, we are all older now, and, speaking for that group of friends, at least, had been angry at the way things are for almost three decades. But there were young people, our children's generation, in fact, with us at those anti-Erap rallies and at Edsa Dos. Perhaps anger dissipates a lot faster in this day and age, what with so many distractions. Or maybe our celebrations have begun to lose their luster, rendered meaningless as soon as they are observed.

* * *

PERHAPS because the verdict on Erap turned out to be such a non-event, the media covering the story were forced to be more creative than usual.

The two major TV channels turned the cameras on themselves and the rest of the media pack. Reporters noted the crush of cameras, and how, in one melee with photographers and camera operators rushing the Erap entourage, one reporter who was seven months pregnant was squeezed and trampled. She even appeared on-cam, explaining it was all part of the job.

An ABS-CBN reporter took pains to explain why he failed to score an interview with Erap as the former president was taking off in a helicopter. Security was so tight, he said, and while he tried to take final shots with his cell phone, security forces shooed him away.

At least we didn't read any stories on how difficult it was to cover Wednesday's events in the papers the next day. Such are the blessings of having enough time to realize just where you are in the scheme of things.

Day of reckoning in Spanish times

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

PEOPLE ARE STILL SPILLING THEIR TWO CENTS worth on the Sandiganbayan decision on the long drawn-out Erap plunder case, and the comments often reflect a personal knee-jerk reaction favorable to either Erap or the judicial system since few people have actually read the whole decision. I expected to spend Wednesday morning watching history unfold as the decision was read on TV. I expected it to be similar or more dramatic than the conviction of Mayor Antonio Sanchez whose Jekyll to Hyde transformation was caught live on camera. That was reality TV at its best. Many people felt cheated that the Erap sentencing was so short we had not even warmed our seats and started on our *chichiria*. Only the conclusion was read on air, and some people complained that viewers would not understand how the decision was arrived at, as if non-lawyers could digest all that boring legalese and snippets of Latin.

Fortunately, historians deal with the past rather than the future because I'm not inclined to go over the voluminous Sandiganbayan decision to form a learned opinion on the matter that will be used in casual conversation this week.

For many people the Erap trial was a test case. Would justice be served now that we have the proverbial "big fish" in the net? Others take the Erap trial as a warning to those who aspire to or are currently serving in government that if they do something wrong, the law will catch up with them somehow, someday.

If people remembered their textbook history, they would have known that during the first two centuries of the Spanish period government officials, from the governor general down to insignificant functionaries, were made to undergo a review of their official acts at the end of their term of office. This was known as the *residencia* (not, mind you, the residence tax or *cedula*).

An obscure work by Charles Cunningham, "The Audiencia in the Spanish Colonies as Illustrated by the Audiencia of Manila," first published in 1919, remains the standard source on the topic. Cunningham opens a whole chapter on the residencia by stating: "The purpose of the residencia was to uphold the morale of the colonial service by making officials answer for all their acts in judicial examination held at the close of their terms. It may be said that the fear of the residencia was almost the sole incentive to righteous official conduct or efficient public service." If you change "colonial service" to "civil service" in the passage just quoted, you would have yet another answer to graft and corruption.

Furthermore, Cunningham cites the historical introduction to the 55-volume compilation of documents by "Blair and Robertson" on this matter:

"The residencia was an institution peculiar in modern times of the Spanish colonial system. It was designed to provide a method by which officials could be held to strict accountability for all acts during their term of office. To allow a contest in the courts involving the governor's powers during his term of office would be subversive of his authority. He was then to be kept in bounds by realizing that a day of judgment was impending, when everyone, even the poorest Indian, might in perfect security bring forward his accusation. In the Philippines the residencia for a governor lasted six months and was conducted by his successor and all the charges were forwarded to Spain. The Italian traveller Gemelli Careri who visited Manila in 1696 characterizes the governor's residencia as a 'dreadful trial,' the strain of which would sometimes 'break their hearts'."

I once thought the residencia was a solution to graft and corruption in government, but reading on I realized things are not as simple as they seem. Ideal in principle, the residencia was bad in actual practice because knowing what we are like as a people, the residencia degenerated into an institutionalized form of revenge or harassment. Anything from the large to the petty, from the real to the imagined, could be taken up during a residencia, and, depending on who is administering it the ex-government official was fined, imprisoned or exiled. Sometimes the unfortunate fellow suffered all of the above punishments, and his family and friends were reduced to poverty. No appeal was allowed. Often, death during the residencia was the most merciful way out. If an official did not see see eye to eye with the Royal Audiencia or other officials on matters of policy or favors and concessions, he knew what to expect come residencia time. The charges ranged from graft, to immorality to inability to stop Moro raids or pursue the Dutch after a naval battle.

Then as now, Manila was crawling with fixers, influence peddlers, *sipsips* and *balimbings*, who made a living in the corridors of power. Once rebuffed, they set off from Manila to Mexico as soon as the term of a governor ended, to take the return trip with the incoming governor. They then used the long and boring sea trip to ingratiate themselves with the newcomer and poison his mind regarding the ex-governor at whose residencia he would preside. No wonder the residencia became obsolete. When practiced it did not stem graft and corruption but probably even multiplied it three-fold because the proverbial advice to government officials was: You don't steal once, you steal thrice—once for yourself, a second time to pay the judge, and a third to pay penalties.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Memories, murmurs

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I'M DOING A BUFFET COLUMN TODAY. THE ARTICLE can stand alone, but are related. So they can be read in ir stallments. Choose what you want to read and when.

Mercifully brief, I thought to myself at 9:20 on Wednesda e Sandiganbayan clerk finished reading the verdict and sen tence for ex-President Joseph Estrada.

The Sandiganbayan was wise to choose that path because reading the entire decision, said to run more than 200 pages, would have been more "correctly" Filipino and yet dangerous. Like the "Pasyon" sung out every Holy Week, no one would have really been listening, much less understanding, the decisio (written in English), but it would have amplified whatever emotions people had. I couldn't help contrasting Wedne day's courtroom atmosphere with that of the "Nicole" trial few months back, where the "guilty" verdict for Lance Cp Daniel Smith was followed by cheering.

I'm glad, too, that government and media seemed to agre that we didn't need to stoke people's passions. The televisio cameras were not allowed to focus on Estrada while the ve dict was being read. President Macapagal-Arroyo kept her si lence, as did Raul Gonzalez and other presidential adviso with foot-in-mouth afflictions. We did get a still fiery but re atively subdued La Senadora Miriam Defensor-Santia preaching about Christian magnanimity.

Maybe because there was so little of fireworks and politic noise, we ended up hearing more of public "murmuri muted but perceptible feelings that were actually quite si lar, regardless of people's support of or opposition to Erap can summarize this feeling as: "But the looting and plund ing have worsened," sometimes accompanied by a wistfu "She better be careful; someday she could be the one on trial

I'm using "murmur" here in a medical sense. A heart mu mur may be mild and muted, but it "speaks" of potentially rious trouble, even as it troubles the entire psyche. If the seemed anticlimactic, it is because people feel shortchang . . . not by the verdict itself or the sentencing (which I t many people found too harsh, in the context of Erap's ag than by the way the country continues to plod along, lik patient with heart disease who has gone to see the d tor—and has been advised to stick a band-aid plaster on chest every time he suffers distress. People want more, we're not getting it for now, so we just move on.

Histories

Justice, oh justice. Visit Youtube on the Internet and typ "Cebu, Thriller" to get a video of a thousand Cebu prison dancing away to Michael Jackson's "Thriller." The star of show is "Wenjell," a drag queen who ends up getting devo by the "zombie" prisoners. Well, she's been in prison now three years on drug-related charges, and has not been brou to trial. Erap got a trial, but languished, sort of, under h arrest for six years before a verdict was handed down.

In the long run though, justice comes not through co and judges but from the pen (or computer keyboards) o historians looking back at our troubled times. Years fr now, historians not even born today will go through archives—hard and electronic copies, court transcripts newspaper columns and yes, blogs and YouTube—and p judgment. We will hear again of our presidents, from Aguinaldo to Marcos and Aquino and Ramos and Estrada and Arroyo.

Historians are no longer just chroniclers dishing out dates and names of great people. Today's historians are more explorers and archaeologists, piecing together the most minute of detailed information to produce what they call " tal events," complete with descriptions of context of places and people. They are not just using official archives now but also looking into letters and diaries, folklore and life hi ries. In the graduate anthropology course I teach, I often have quite a few history majors eager to learn new way understanding, and interpreting, our past.

Instead of one Philippine history, we have many histories written and waiting to be written. There are Filipinos w grew up learning about the Philippines from American historians. Then Filipino historians came in to rewrite the t books, sometimes questioning earlier accounts: Zaide, A oncillo, Constantino, the INQUIRER's own Ambeth Ocampo. Ambeth's books are best-sellers because they show the hu man side to our heroes and villains—what they ate, whom they loved (now why did I think of eating and loving at same time?).

Historians give life and color and perspective to the events. For many years, Vietnamese history books tende be hagiographies, full of praise for all the brave Vietnamese generals who defeated the American imperialists. Today there are new books talking about daily life during the One of the current best-sellers in Vietnam is a book featuring excerpts from the diary of a young Vietnamese woman d tor who wrote about all her fears and anxieties and sadness, even while remaining totally committed to her work of ministering to the wounded and dying. She died before the ended, and young Vietnamese feel that history must reflect, too, the valor of the Vietnamese outside the war arenas. (interesting, too, that the diary ended up with an American GI, who was able to return it to Vietnam after the war ended.)

Future histories of the Philippines will feature more side stories" about the famous and not-so-famous that will put many of our presidents in a new light. I have no doubt we will hear more of Joseph Estrada's life, when he was in Malacañang as well as under house arrest. So too, we will he Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's life in Malacañang, as a president's daughter and as a president.

Time is always on the historian's side, people now sile will come forth in safer times to speak and to hand over important documents. But time is also on the side of contr sial figures like Marcos and Estrada and Arroyo, allowing future generations of Filipinos access to more facts and therefore to become more critical, but kinder and gentler in judgments.

UP memories

Our anthropology department at UP turns 90 this year while the university will be celebrating its centennial next year. From time to time, I'll be talking about some of th niversary projects and activities, often with an appeal for help. For starters, the UP Diliman Information Office is compiling a coffee table centennial book, "UPD Sights and Sounds," and needs back issues of the Philippinensian (1918 to 1931, 1937 to 1941, 1949, 1951, 1966 to 1968), as w The Plow, The Veterinarian, The Woolsack and The Tic. (You can figure out which colleges produced the first two magazines, but woolsacks and tics?) Call the Information Office at 924-1881 or 920-5802 if you have copies that you can lend or donate.

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Injustice to coconut farmers

THIS IS IN REACTION TO A NEWS item titled "PCGG sees compromise deal on P130-B coco levy." (INQUIRER, 9/1/07) The chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Camilo Sabio, expressed confidence that a compromise agreement with several groups of stakeholders would be worked out "within the year." The deal involves the creation of a foundation that will manage the estimated P130-billion coco levy funds. The story seemed to have been largely based on an ANC interview.

There were two sides to that ANC interview. I stated in that interview that the creation of a foundation is an injustice to the millions of coconut farmers and contrary to all court decisions regarding the coconut levy cases. It is a shame that after getting favorable decisions on the cases with the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan, the PCGG is now reversing the gains by moving for the creation of such a foundation. Assigning funds from the recovered coco levy assets to a foundation necessarily considers them "private." This is a legal hurdle that Sabio claimed government lawyers are studying. Sabio also claimed that such a compromise agreement is expected to also be acceptable to Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

Unfortunately for the real coconut farmers, such a premise runs contrary to what has already been resolved by the courts. The question on the nature of the coco levy funds and assets had been a decade-long debate in the courts. Cojuangco and cohorts held on to these assets based on a presidential decree made by President Ferdinand Marcos under a dictatorial regime. The decree declared that the funds may be owned in a private capacity. But in 2001 the Supreme Court finally declared that, "to be more categorical, the coconut levy funds are not only affected with public interest, but are prima facie public funds."

Subsequent decisions by the Sandiganbayan declared a number of the assets bought with coco levy funds to be "public, owned by government in trust for all the coconut farmers." The main argument is as simple as can be—taxes or levies collected by government from the public can never be owned by private persons or entities. The Supreme Court also said in its decision that these funds may only be used for the purpose of developing the coconut industry and its farmers—the reason the coco levy was collected in the first place.

Now, after such gains in the court battle, the government is mustering all its legal resources to again make the funds private in order to assign it to a foundation. In the process, the real farmers will again have little chance of benefiting from their much awaited coco levy funds, as it was before. Worse, the first candidate considered for the foundation is the Cocofed, one of the defendants and losing parties in the coco levy cases.

—**JOEY T. FAUSTINO,**
executive director,
Coconut Industry Reform Movement,
84 Masikap Ext., Central,
Diliman, Quezon City

RP being 'uprooted' by holiday economics

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S "Holiday economics" policy has aggravated the disorientation of the Filipino people, weakening their "roots." They do not know what and why they are celebrating—whether it is Independence Day, National Heroes' Day, Rizal Day or Ninoy Aquino Day.

Already known as a "rootless" people with around 10 percent of them wandering around the world in search of jobs as domestics, construction laborers, medical workers and caregivers—while leaving behind their families to fend for themselves—the Filipinos are becoming even more alienated as the memory of their past is erased by their present leaders. Is there method to this madness? Is it not easier to control people who are brain-damaged and bewildered?

In the award-winning movie, "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest," the villain, an authoritarian and manipulative head nurse of a mental asylum, portrayed by Louise Fletcher, caused the hero, a freedom-loving lunatic, played by Jack Nicholson, to be lobotomized and thus lose all his memory. In the end, he became a robot and lost whatever was left of his humanity. Instead of recovering, the hero and his friends were doomed forever to mental emptiness. The head nurse was triumphant.

Is the Philippines becoming a vast mental asylum?

This is what happens when an individual loses his memory or a nation its sense of history, forgetting particularly those hallowed events when the nation was one in the pursuit of noble ideals (such as democracy) and triumphant in the achievement of noble goals (such as independence).

According to the renowned philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Jose Rizal said almost the same thing: Those who do not look back to their past will not realize their goals.

We have become a nation of Alzheimer sufferers as our schools drop history from their courses and our government adopts "holiday economics" in the vain pursuit of private profits at the expense of events that uphold national greatness.

—**MANUEL F. ALMARIO,**
spokesman, Movement for Truth
in History, mfalmario@yahoo.com

De Leon best for MSU

THIS IS A REACTION TO CONRADO DE Quiros' column titled "A man named Muslim." (INQUIRER, 9/4/07)

I am a Maranao Muslim and a local of Marawi City. Mindanao State University Main Campus happens to be my alma mater. Although I am not a fan of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (I'm praying every night for her removal from the office which is not hers in the first place), I believe Ricardo de Leon was her better choice as MSU's acting president. I know this is hard to understand for someone who lives in Manila or for someone who hates GMA.

De Leon has not been going around and outside MSU, soliciting signatures of support. Anyone who has seen the improvements at MSU will definitely agree with what I'm saying. It takes one "MSUan" to understand this.

De Leon is the "exception" to the typical GMA appointee. He has done a lot of "great" miracles for MSU. Let us not judge him on the basis of who appointed him but by how he has helped MSU. It is not Gloria but the MSU alumni, students, faculty and staff who are the ones supporting him.

Secondly, it doesn't follow that "it pays to appoint Muslims to institutions that have to do with Muslims." What? Is MSU a Muslim university? No way. It is just located in the heart of an Islamic city, but it is not an institution for Muslims only. "MSU aims to become a Center of Excellence not only in teacher education, science and technology but also in tourism, sports, arts, humanities and social sciences. It hopes to contribute to the goals of urban and countryside development through peace, unity and understanding among Christians and Muslims." It is a public institution for everyone, regardless of one's religion, ethnic culture, social standing, etc., except that students, professors and administrators must meet certain academic requirements and qualifications.

So how come De Leon is less fit compared to Macapado Muslim? Because De Leon is a GMA appointee? Because he is a former police general? The Bill of Rights mandates that "[n]o law shall be made respecting the establishment of religion ... [n]o religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights."

Thirdly, it does not follow that an insider can do better than an outsider in solving an MSU problem. The situation of the university is unique. It needs an outsider to look at the problems objectively. Not that I am belittling the insiders. But right now, an objective approach is necessary.

Lastly, there is always an exception for every good rule. An academic institution should not be viewed with lewd political interests. I challenge those who question De Leon's capability to visit MSU and see for themselves the situation there. They should ask around, and not complain from a distant. I have never met a man as fit to be MSU president as De Leon.

I admire De Quiros' views, but his Aug. 4 column has to be an exception.

—**KHAL MAMBUAY,**
MSU, Marawi City,
khalmambuay@yahoo.com

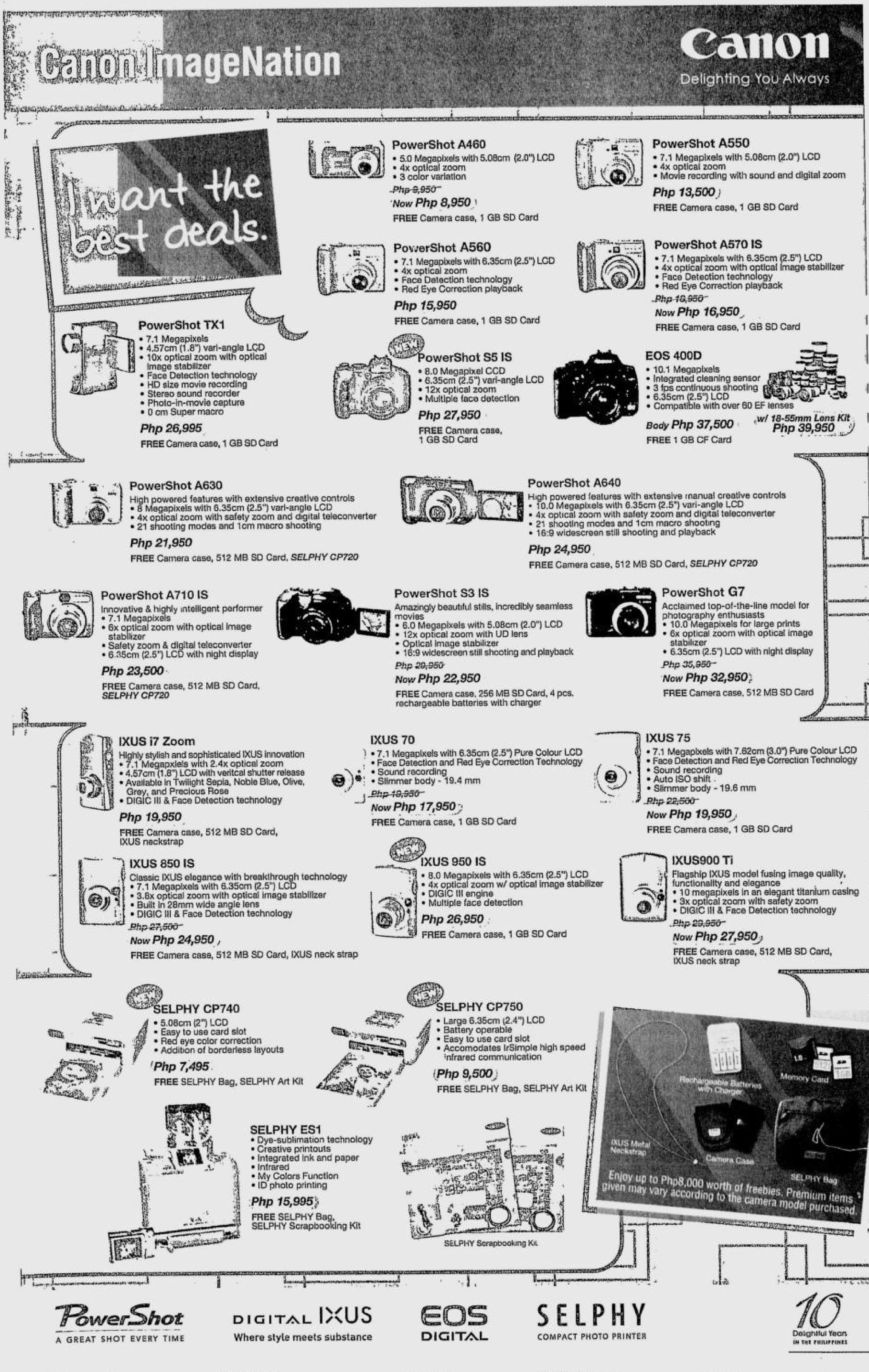
To avert looming water crisis, build more dams

IN THE FACE OF AN IMPENDING WATER shortage last July, the National Water Resources Board prepared a plan to reduce water consumption. The Maynilad Water Services Inc. urged its customers to conserve water by recycling it. (INQUIRER, 8/4/07) And the bishops called on the people to say the "Oratio Imperata Ad Petendam Pluviam" (Obligatory Prayer To Request Rain). (God answered the prayers of the people for rain from Aug. 6 to Aug. 9.)

Sen. Loren Legarda renewed her call for a total log ban, saying that the water and power shortage crisis was due to the destruction of forests. The Commission on Higher Education embarked on a massive tree-planting project.

Another solution to avert water shortage is to build additional dams. When the Angat Dam and the La Mesa Dam were built, Manila and its suburbs were sparsely populated. There were no squatters along railroad tracks and under concrete bridges. But now Metro Manila is thickly populated. It is now home to many high-rise tenement houses and condominiums; and many more of them are under construction to accommodate the growing population.

—**ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,**
Rositaville Subd.,
Concepcion I, Marikina City



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MILF calls for peace

From page A24

tween "iftar," the breaking of the fast at sunset, and "suhur," the last meal of the day before sunrise.

Hardline Indonesian Muslim groups have warned that they will act against nightclubs and other "dens of vices" that disregard the restricted opening hours for the month.

Elsewhere in Southeast Asia, Thailand's army on Wednesday lifted a night curfew meant to smother a separatist insurgency in Muslim provinces, where people will also begin fasting on Thursday.

Festivals

In multicultural Singapore, Ramadan is just one of the holidays being celebrated, along with the Chinese mid-autumn festival and the Indian Deepavali festival next month.

In Bangladesh, the government has offered rice at a 20-percent discount around the country, while also opening 100 convenience stores around the capital Dhaka to sell other foods at reduced prices.

"We want poor and middle-class people to have a comfortable Ramadan," food secretary Dhiraj Malakar said.

In Cairo, a shopping frenzy began weeks ago despite soaring prices, as the faithful prepare for the first day of Ramadan where extended families break the fast with dates and milk, in accordance with Islamic tradition.

In the teeming city of 18 million notorious for gridlock, traffic police have been banned from taking time off during Ramadan, with extra wardens deployed to control pre-iftar accidents as motorists hurry home in time for iftar.

Shiite Iran, which is also due to begin fasting on Thursday, bans restaurants from operating during the day throughout Ramadan.

Confusion

Confusion about when Ramadan was starting led some people to wake up in the Afghan capital Kabul at 3 a.m. on Wednesday for a pre-dawn meal—just in case it was the first day of the monthlong fast.

Once the sun was up, broadcasters said that the holy month would start on Thursday, with restaurants opening only in the evenings and government offices closing by 1 p.m.

The Taliban insurgency has threatened to use Ramadan to launch a new wave of attacks on government and Western military targets throughout the country.

But in Baghdad, where thousands of US troops are deployed, the US military said levels of pre-Ramadan violence were lower this year and expected the trend to continue.

The nightly curfew in the Iraqi capital and a vehicle curfew are to be eased during Ramadan to help families celebrate the breaking of the fast.

Baghdad's 400-year-old Shorja market has been bustling with activity with war-weary residents stocking up on spices, sugar, tea and nuts—these days, imported from neighboring Syria.

Gunfire bursts

In Cotabato City, as in the past revelry marking the start of Ramadan, bursts of gunfire tore into the night on Wednesday night.

Police said a third year high school student was wounded by a stray bullet.

Ustadz Jaafar Ali of the Darul Ifta (House of Opinion) in Maguindanao told radio dxMS that the firing of guns was not part of tradition. "Let's give importance on how we can get closer to Allah instead and His teachings so that we may learn from our fasting," he said. *Reports from Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao; AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 14, 2007
Triumph of the Cross

1st Reading:	Num 21:4-9
2nd Reading:	Phil 2:6-11
Gospel:	John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "No one has ever gone up to heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved."

Commentary

The seraph was mounted on a pole and the people were told to look at it—to look at what had bitten them. And they were healed. This bronze serpent is seen as an image of Jesus on the Cross. But Jesus went to the cross, under the burden of the law and of people's hatred. He took it upon himself to live the way of God truthfully and to die clinging to God and being obedient to God's will, even if that meant being rejected and killed. Jesus was the fullness of God, God in our flesh and blood, and he humbled himself to come and live with us as a human being, dying with us, even dying on a cross as the least of us. Somehow this mystery of the incarnation of God is what we are to become—we, our flesh and blood in Jesus, are to become the Body of Christ given in love to the Father in the power of the Spirit. Our humanness is to become the holiness of God. This is our salvation. We are loved and given the very life of God in Jesus.

Does it feel like Lent? Monastic Lent began on this day and the liturgical calendar reflects this still. It is time to look upon our God, upon the cross, and kiss the symbol of our life and recognize that we are made in the sign of the cross.

'Salamat sa Desisyon ng Korte Suprema 13-0'

Smokey Mountain now

Four Philippine Presidents have put in their mark on the Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project (SMRDP).

All poured in essential support needed during their term to provide decent homes to a community of garbage dumpsite scavengers and renew the environment in the Tondo foreshore land, known as the Smokey Mountain.

With the Smokey Mountain etched fresh in the world's mind as symbol of urban decay, former President Cory Aquino initiated in 1988 a comprehensive waste management plan for Metro Manila, with the SMRDP as one of the resultant projects.

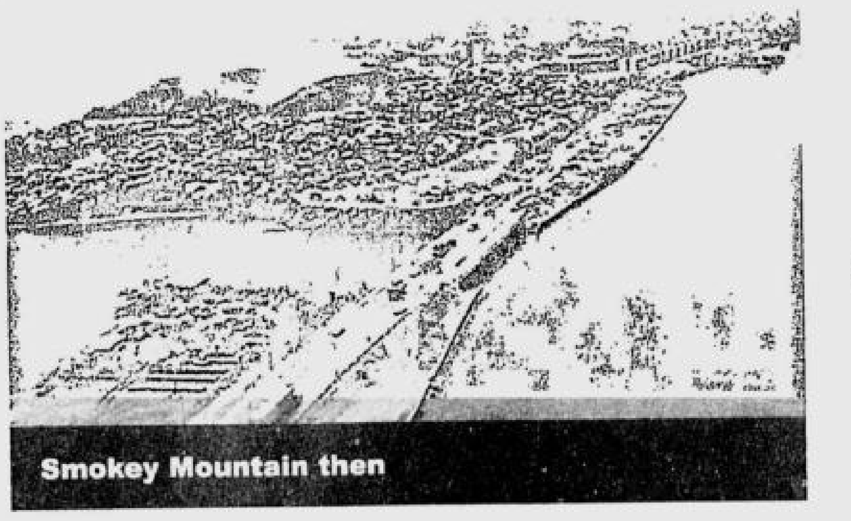
Former President Fidel V. Ramos firmed up the joint venture agreement covering the project and set forth the 79-hectare reclamation of foreshore land as its enabling component.

With work in progress, former President Joseph Estrada undertook the SMRDP as one of his administration's flagship programs for the poor and for environment management.

Then, in 2003, H. E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo turned over to 2,520 SMRDP beneficiary-families their housing units in 21 medium-rise residential buildings.

On Aug 15, 2007, the Supreme Court declared the legality of the Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project (SMRDP). Thirteen High Court justices voted on its validity while two other justices inhibited themselves from voting.

> Smokey Mountain rule reopens fresh prospects for new wealth and relieving miseries of the poor --*FVR*



Smokey Mountain then

In a column by former President Ramos, dated Aug. 26, 2007 and which appeared in the Manila Bulletin, he hails the High Court decision and declares:

"Fresh prospects to create new wealth – on the part of both Government and the private sector – have just been reopened which can attract a big wave of investments and generate hundreds of thousands of jobs for indigent Filipinos."

He sees the decision as a judicial move that spurs the cleaning up of more "Smokey Mountains" in the Philippines. Calling for more legislation on reclamation, he also sees renewed vigor in the use of reclamation for the creation of new wealth benefiting foreshore communities.

Salamat sa Korte Suprema!

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Dutch court orders Joma ...

From page A1

Bruin said the prosecution planned to appeal the decision to release Sison.

Probe to continue

"In the meantime, the investigation will continue, and Mr. Sison remains a suspect," he said.

Sison was accused of ordering the murder of Kintanar in 2003 and Tabara in 2004. The Communist Party, which the European Union designated a terrorist group in 2002, issued statements claiming it carried out both slayings.

"We're very happy Joma has been released now after 15-16 days of solitary confinement," said his close aide Luis Jalandoni, referring to Sison by his nickname.

"We are thankful to his lawyers, who worked very hard for his release," and supporters around the world, he said.

In 1992, Kintanar and Tabara broke away from the CPP due to differences over whether to pursue Maoist revolutionary strategy, upon which Sison founded the party in 1968 and its armed wing in 1969.

PENSIVE MOOD: Jose Ma. Sison photographed in April in Utrecht, the Netherlands, where he has been based the past 20 years. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Small victory

Dutch authorities declined to disclose the nature of the evidence against Sison, but said it originated in both the Netherlands and the Philippines. His lawyers had been instructed not to disclose information from two hearings held since Sison's arrest.

In Manila, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, who had revealed that the government helped the families of the two murdered men file the case in the Netherlands, had no immediate comment pending a verification of the reported court order.

"I have ordered increased protection for complainants and other individuals who may be the object of NPA vengeance. We have received information from very reliable source the NPA will undertake something major in Metro Manila," Gonzales said.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), the Philippines' largest left-wing federation which staged protests at the Dutch Embassy demanding Sison's freedom, cheered his release.

"This is just one small victory against the Philippine, Dutch and US governments, that conspired to persecute Sison," said the group's secretary general, Renato Reyes.

The Philippine government has long sought to bring Sison home to face charges stemming from his leadership of the rebel movement. But no extradition treaty exists between the Philippines and the Netherlands. Manila removed one obstacle toward such a treaty last year when it abolished capital punishment.

Sison describes himself as a political consultant for the National Democratic Front, which has been engaged in off-and-on peace talks with Manila to end the 39-year insurgency. The talks broke down in 2004, and the latest amnesty offer was designed to help restart negotiations.

Amnesty offer

In a speech at a peace forum in Manila late Wednesday, Ms Arroyo urged communist rebels to accept the government's new amnesty program or face military defeat.

Ms Arroyo said the guerrillas have posed a low-level threat for years, and "if we are to become a modernized country, we have to put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all."

"It is either amnesty or military solution. Whichever way, the communist rebellion must be stopped," she told the peace forum.

Last week, Ms Arroyo signed a proclamation offering amnesty to rebels who turn in their guns. The guerrillas rejected the offer as a gimmick.

The government also said it would set aside P500 million for the social integration of rebels choosing amnesty.

Restart peace talks

The latest move was an effort to restart peace talks, which suffered a setback with Sison's arrest in the Netherlands. Similar offers in the past have done little to settle the rural-based insurgency.

Ms Arroyo has repeatedly said she wants to end the Maoist rebellion—Asia's longest—by 2010, when her term ends.

"The military solution is our last option, but we are prepared to wield this option when peace is broken, noncombatants cower in fear and development initiatives are halted," she said. "We will not step back in our fight to give peace and progress to the country."

The rebels quit Norwegian-brokered peace talks in 2004, accusing the Arroyo administration of instigating their inclusion on US and European lists of terrorist groups. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, TJ Burgonio, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. of Inquirer Southern Luzon, and AP*

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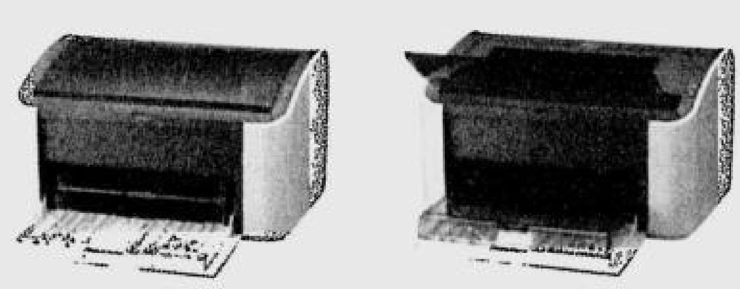

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10 Delightful Years IN THE PHILIPPINES

Business can be simple

Gonzalez to undergo ...

From page A1

meeting. Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera was designated officer in charge of the justice department on Sept. 1.

Gonzalez admitted in May last year to having kidney stones, but said his health problem should not be a reason for him to leave his post.

Gonzalez also admitted he had been undergoing dialysis because of the high potassium levels in his body.

On Aug. 3, he was rushed to a hospital because of a bleeding ulcer. He went back to work after more than a week of confinement, despite doctors' orders that he rest for at least another week. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

SICK CALL: Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez photographed on Aug. 29 before the start of the National Security Council meeting at the Palace. LYN RILLON

Erap feared cops would drop him from chopper

From page A1

denly had second thoughts about a helicopter trip back to his estate in Tanay, Rizal, on Wednesday.

"*Baka ihulog ako* (They might drop me)," the convict was quoted as saying by Chief Supt. Romeo Hilomen, head of the police unit assigned to look after his security over the past six years.

Estrada had preferred the high-speed car ride that brought him to the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City that day, and it was his first time to ride in a police helicopter, Hilomen said.

"But I assured him that we would protect him and that this was the best PNP chopper available," he said.

For good measure, the police official allowed a certain Mr. Evangelista to ride with Estrada. Evangelista is said to be Estrada's buddy from their days at Ateneo High School.

Estrada, Hilomen said, is the "most important VIP" that the Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO) has ever guarded.

"Because he is a former President, we in the PNP make sure he is properly protected. He is our responsibility," Hilomen said. "If something happened to him, that could be the end of my career."

He added: "I thank the Lord that nothing happened to him, and nothing happened to our country [on Wednesday]."

So important was Estrada that Hilomen had to pull out 100 of his men who were guarding other VIPs to augment the ousted leader's security detail.

Inside the helicopter, neither captive nor custodian spoke to each other.

'Depressed'

"Of course, he was depressed as anyone who is convicted of a crime [would be]. That's understandable," Hilomen said.

When Estrada disembarked, he was clutching at his heart in pain, according to the official. "I was worried if he was having a heart attack," Hilomen told the INQUIRER.

He offered to immediately order the aircraft to fly to a hospital in Manila if needed, but Estrada said he was fine and that he was having stomach cramps.

The official waited for around five minutes to see if everything was OK with Estrada. "Then he told me, '*Sige, OK na.*'"

Custodian since 2001

Since 2001, the PSPO has been guarding the ousted President while the antigraft court was hearing his P4-billion plunder case. The unit is also tasked with guarding other VIPs (very important persons) when they request police bodyguards because of threats to their lives.

Everything was not always cordial between Hilomen and Estrada. "He can be hard-headed. But in the end, he comes along with us," the police official said.

Four years ago, Estrada became upset with Hilomen, an incident that the official would rather not talk about. "It was a miscommunication about the security procedures. But everything is fine between us now."

And somehow, during their dealings with each other, Hilomen got a whiff of what Estrada is made of.

'Forgive, never forget'

"Erap is a forgiving man. *Hindi siya nagtatanim ng sama ng loob* (He never holds any grudges). He told me once, 'If I wasn't a forgiving man, I would have died a long time ago.' I told him that in the Bible, forgiveness is a virtue. He agreed with me, but he said he could always forgive, but never forgot," Hilomen mused.

He and his men also had to contend with members of the media who meet the ousted President in the Sandiganbayan on Wednesday.

Playing rough

"There was one male reporter in a coat who was able to enter the holding room for the Estradas (on the sixth floor of the Sandiganbayan). But I grabbed him by the shoulder and shoved him out the door," the stocky Hilomen recalled.

"On our way to the courtroom, I kept telling media in a loud voice to get out of the way. I kept saying, 'Sorry, please get out of the way. We are just doing our job,'" he said.

"We are used to playing rough but we make sure no one gets hurt," he added.

Hilomen also revealed that upon the request of the Sandiganbayan, he designated two bodyguards for each of the justices who heard Estrada's case.

"There was a threat to their life. Someone sent two of them a picture of the justices' vehicle. To preempt the threat, I assigned some of my men to guard them," he said.

GLORIA: YOU'RE NEXT!
Oakwood Mutiny

POST-ERAP RALLYING CRY: Student protester holds up a litany of sins allegedly committed by President Arroyo during a rally on Thursday in Bustillos near Mendiola.

RYAN LIM

Erap chats with JV over glass of wine

From page A1

Estrada said he was not blaming the three justices who he said were "handpicked" to decide on his fate.

"If they acquitted me instead, the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration and the Supreme Court's action in 2001 will be questioned," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Estrada was referring to the high tribunal's "haste" in swearing in then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President in January 2001.

Lots of well-wishers

Estrada said he had received a lot of letters, text messages and phone calls from well-wishers and supporters from across the country—among them Roman Catholic bishops—lavishing him with words of encouragement and comfort.

"They were all praying for me and encouraging me to be strong," he told the INQUIRER over the phone.

Lunch, coffee with lawyers

Yesterday, Estrada had lunch and coffee with Serapio and another lawyer, Alan Paguia. "I was even teasing him (Serapio) why he was acquitted when he was the one who received the ("jueteng") money. *Dapat may kasama ako kasi conspiracy* (I should have a companion because it's a conspiracy)," he said in jest.

Personalities from civil society groups, whom he described as his "former tormentors," also dropped by to wish him well, according to Estrada.

"I have a peaceful and happy life because I learned to forget the good things I did to others and forget the wrong things they have done to me," he said.

Pardon

When asked whether he would even consider the offer of amnesty from Ms Arroyo he said: "I will just cross the bridge when I get there."

Estrada maintained his earlier stand that accepting pardon was tantamount to admitting guilt. But he added that he would think about an offer of pardon when the fight was over—meaning that he has exhausted all the legal means to overturn the Sandiganbayan decision.

"The conviction should be final before you can be pardoned. I cannot say for now. I really don't know. I really have to think about that thoroughly," he said.

His lawyers have announced that they would be filing a motion for reconsideration with the antigraft court on or before Sept. 27.

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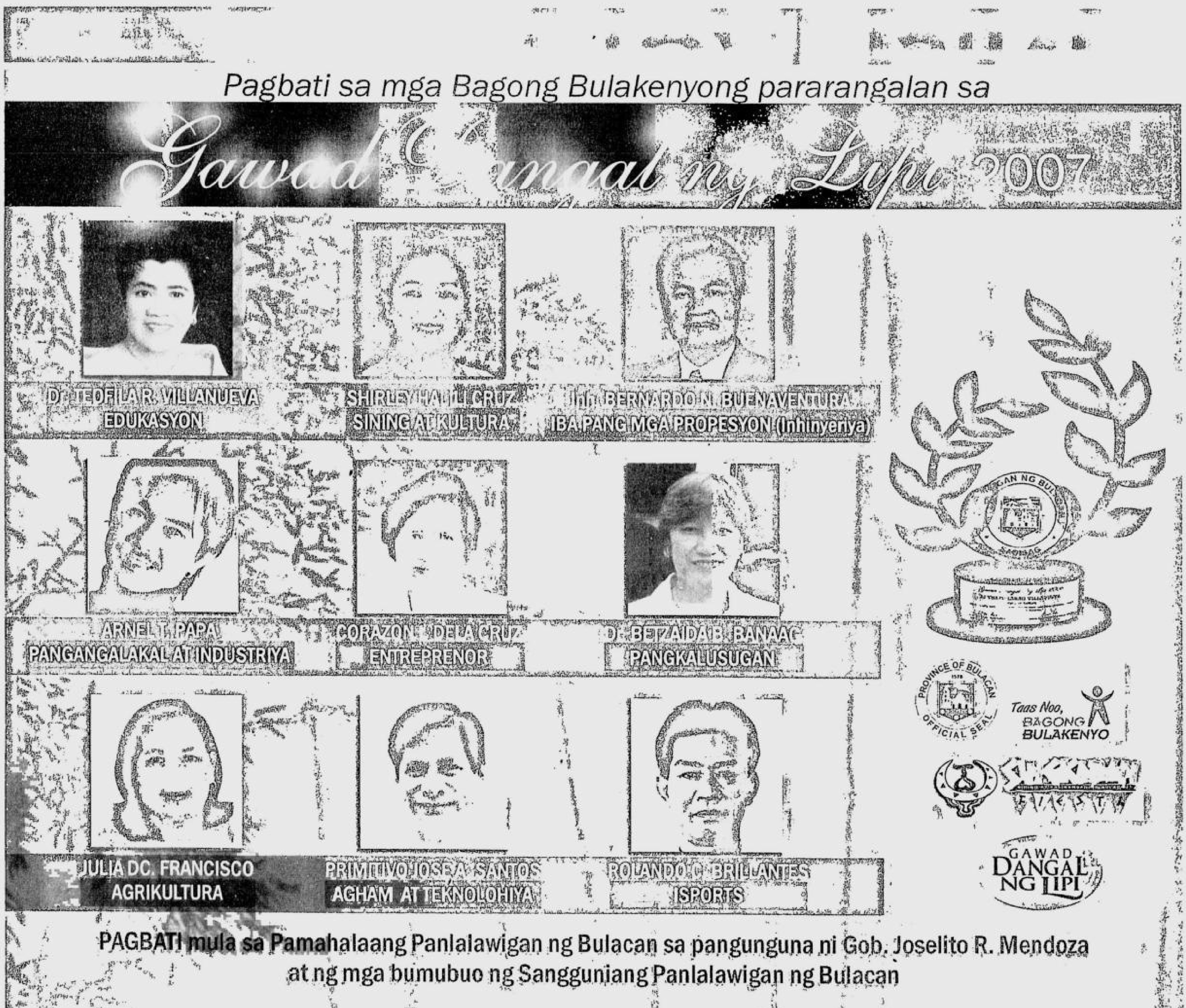

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GMA: We must honor gov't contracts despite media attacks

From page A1

Gov. Rolex Suplico and Amsterdam Holdings Inc., which lost the contract to ZTE, the Supreme Court ordered on Tuesday a temporary stop to the implementation of the contract for the NBN project.

"We live by the rule of law. We abide by what the courts of the land decide," Ms Arroyo said, addressing the Bishop-Ulama Conference-Police and Military Peace Forum at the Rizal Hall of Malacañang.

"We must be a government that abides by what the courts of the land decide on matters of dispute," she added.

The NBN project is aimed at connecting government offices nationwide through landline, cellular and Internet services. It would be funded through a loan from China.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Commission on Higher Education chair Romulo Neri yesterday said there was no contract yet in effect because what the government had signed with ZTE was a "supplier's contract," which they said did not have the effect of an executive agreement.

"There's no contract, so to speak," Neri told reporters in Malacañang.

Ms Arroyo made no specific mention of the ZTE deal during her 15-minute speech.

But she later told reporters, when asked about the inviolability of contracts such as ZTE: "As long as the contract goes through the required processes, we are required to comply with them. That's part of abiding by the rule of law and again we also abide by court decisions ... on the settlement of disputes."

Prospective contract

Neri, former head of the National Economic and development Authority, said what Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong signed on April 21 in Boao, China, was a "supplier's contract" and that makes it a "prospective contract."

"It only takes effect if the loan agreement is signed. There is no loan agreement ... because a loan agreement will have the effect of an executive agreement, (it will be a) country-to-country (agreement)," Neri said.

He noted that Beijing was following a process that was the complete opposite of what Manila would be doing when forging an executive agreement with other nations.

China's process different

In the case of China, Neri said it "normally requires a supplier's contract before (its officials) process any loan agreement, while the Philippines "signs first a loan agreement before any supplier's agreement is done."

Asked then whether this made the high court's TRO useless, Neri said he couldn't say because he had not seen a copy of the TRO.

Absence of loan agreement

Teves maintained that there was no deal yet between Manila and Beijing due to the absence of a loan agreement.

Asked whether Ms Arroyo was referring to the ZTE deal in her speech, Teves said she "would probably give a lot of weight to the merits of the contract to make sure that the contract is legal, morally defensible and has covered all the processes that are needed to justify a project."

Teves said the supply contract was "under review."

Neri said Mendoza had pitched to some Cabinet members for the government to go ahead with its deal with ZTE at a briefing on Tuesday.

"In that meeting, they justified why ZTE vis-à-vis AHI or Amsterdam Holdings," Neri said.

It was Saludo who disclosed what transpired at the briefing.

Saludo said Mendoza "reviewed with several secretaries the key aspects of the national broadband network project."

"Secretary Mendoza showed how the project would save the government more than P3 billion a year. The annual cost will be P990 million when repayments begin on the proposed 20-year, 3-percent interest rate concessional loan to fund the project, after five years' grace period," Saludo said Tuesday.

Lacson-Angara word war

In the Senate, the ZTE sparked a word war between Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Edgardo Angara, former Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino allies turned political enemies since the 2004 elections.

Lacson yesterday accused Angara of "conflict of interest" for moving to discourage a Senate probe of the deal because ZTE was being represented by the latter's law firm.

"Who is Attorney Rogelio Vinluan? If it is true that ZTE has engaged Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz or Accra Law Office to be its legal counsel, it tells us a lot why our colleagues want the investigation into this stinking issue stopped," Lacson said.

Angara told reporters that he was not against any investigation of the ZTE deal but that it should only be done when the contract has been finalized. If ever a probe would proceed, Angara said the kickbacks and under-the-table agreements should be the main focus.

Once the investigation started, Angara said he would inhibit himself from the proceedings. "I have long retired from the Accra law office. Vinluan is my partner. I think Lacson is just making himself look good in media," said Angara.

"The problem with Lacson is that he does not understand legal matters very well. I think he should study his facts first before making any accusations," Angara said.

Favila in the House

In the House of Representatives, Trade Secretary Peter Favila told lawmakers that he knew nothing about the details of the ZTE deal.

Favila yesterday showed up at the House for the committee on appropriations hearing of his department's proposed budget for 2008.

He did so after he told the House leadership in a letter that he failed to get consent from Malacañang to attend a Question Hour on the broadband deals.

"I'm at a loss here because... the (Department of Transportation and Communication) is the implementing agency. I asked why the (Department of Trade and Industry) was the one being summoned," Favila said of the House invitation. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora*

NIGHT AFTER THE VERDICT. President Arroyo was on the way to Rizal Hall at the Palace for the launch of the Bishops-Ulama-Conference-AFP-PNP Forum for Peace. • LYN RILLON

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(PDI - September 14, 2007)

Oil price hits record $80 a barrel

From page A1

yet of raising prices," Kanapi said in a telephone interview.

Glenn Yu, chair of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association, said it was difficult to project when pump prices would be adjusted.

"The market is of two minds right now: Some believe there's not enough oil in the market, while others think there would be a market slowdown due to what's happening in the US. This has resulted in stronger market volatility," Yu said in a separate interview.

Supply disruptions

US crude stocks fell a hefty 7.1 million barrels last week to their lowest level in eight months ahead of the winter heating season, government data released on Wednesday showed.

Adding to supply concerns, Hurricane Humberto on Thursday hit the Texas coast, a major oil-producing and gasoline-refining area, although industry officials have predicted the storm will have little impact to operations.

Experts said the deal forged by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Vienna on Tuesday to raise output by a half million barrels per day (bpd) starting Nov. 1 was not enough to reverse rising energy prices.

"The delay in the output increase seems to indicate a high degree of compromise in the mechanics of the agreement. Overall, we believe the door to $80 and beyond remains open and beckons," Barclays Capital said in a report.

Despite Wednesday's jump, oil is still well below inflation-adjusted highs hit in early 1980. Depending on the adjustment, a US$38 barrel of oil in 1980 would be worth US$96 to US$101 or more today.

"The world economy in the last few years has shown to be quite resilient to strong oil pricing, but this is certainly a new territory for crude oil and if sustained there is bound to be some impact on the economy," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst at Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

Shum, however, said profit-taking in the near term would limit the oil price's ability to sustain above the US$80-a-barrel level.

Lure to investors

Strong oil fundamentals have lured investors looking to diversify away from markets dragged down by the US subprime mortgage crisis, and dealers said fresh fund money continued to pile into energy.

According to analysts, oil's recent advance has been largely due to speculative buying by big investment funds, who are responding to a price structure in which oil contracts for delivery in future months are cheaper than the current front-month contract.

That kind of structure signifies tight demand in the immediate future, and is a buying incentive. Investors who buy now will end up with more oil contracts later, when October futures roll over to cheaper contracts for delivery in later months.

Concerns over Mexican supplies

Analysts said there were also concerns over Mexican supplies after a leftist militant group blew up several fuel pipelines this week, sparking fears the world's fifth-largest producer could sink into a Nigeria-style struggle to keep exports flowing.

Worries over the nuclear standoff of Iran, an Opec member, with the West and growing resource nationalization in producer countries have likewise spurred investor buying this year.

Opec blames a lack of refining capacity in major consumers for high prices.

"Looking at the fourth quarter on average, there does not appear to be much downside risk to the oil price," said Harry Tchilinguirian, an oil analyst at BNP Paribas. *Reports from Abigail L. Ho, AP and Reuters*

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Tarlac-Aurora highway sought

'... we continue to monitor the SCTEx to make sure we get a world-class road.'

CABANATUAN CITY—BUSINESS GROUPS IN CENTRAL Luzon have linked up to push the government to build the Tarlac-Nueva Ecija-Aurora Expressway to transform the region's eastern side as a gateway of trade, commerce and tourism through the Pacific Ocean route.

The Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon presented to the Nueva Ecija Chamber of Commerce and Industry the features of the proposed 60-km expressway.

It starts from La Paz in Tarlac, then to the towns of Zaragoza and Sta. Rosa, Cabanatuan City and Pantabangan in Nueva Ecija.

From an interchange in Pantabangan, the options are to extend the road to Dingalan and to Baler, the capital town of Aurora.

This road can shorten travel time to Dingalan to 40 minutes, ADCL Chair Rene Romero said during a briefing here on Wednesday night.

Important road

The road seeks to transform the region's eastern corridor for trade routes to and from North America via the Pacific Ocean, he said. The cost of building the road is being studied.

On the other hand, the soon-to-be finished 94-km, P27-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) along the region's western boundary provides an access to Southeast Asian countries through the seaport and two airports at the Subic and Clark free ports in Bataan, Zambales and Pampanga, he said.

Potentials

"These inter-connected structures will strengthen the potentials of the Luzon Urban Beltway," Romero said, referring to Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Metro Manila that President Macapagal-Arroyo and government economic planners have clustered as a "super region" in July 2005.

The ADCL is also pushing the extension of the SCTEx to La Paz, Tarlac, and to Rosario, La Union.

While the Tarlac-Nueva Ecija-Aurora Expressway was not stated in the Central Luzon Development Plan (CLDP), which the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Department of Trade and Industry had completed in September 1995, the CLDP cited the need to create a "parallel development of the North Luzon Expressway and the Sierra Madre Expressway (SME)."

Arroyo plan

"NLEx would encourage economic development in Tarlac, Pangasinan, La Union and further northern provinces along the coastal lines [of the South China Sea]. On the other hand, the SME would open up Cagayan Valley and Aurora," the CLDP said.

The ADCL took that idea on when it presented the "Global Gateways" master plan to Ms Arroyo in 2004, Romero said.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

PORTIONS of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway on the Bataan-Pampanga side remained unfinished and the government is getting another loan to pay the Japanese contractor that was working on it.

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Debts threaten power supply

COTABATO CITY—The National Power Corp. has warned the Maguindanao Electric Cooperative (Magelco) it would cut power supply after the fasting month of Ramadan should the cooperative fail to pay its debts.

Maydo Wawa, president of Magelco board of directors, said Magelco owes Napocor some P80 million in arrears.

He said he was summoned by Napocor Mindanao area vice president in Iligan City to be told that the power firm has no other choice but to cut power supply.

"The vice president for Mindanao told me that our obligation is already tantamount to cutting power supply to Magelco," Wawa said.

He appealed to Napocor to "give us some time so we can address the problem." Magelco was given until Oct. 13 to pay half of the almost P80 million debt.

"Many consumer-members in Maguindanao and Shariff Kabunsuan are not paying their electric bills," Wawa told radio station dxMS here in an interview.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

ROUNDUP

Fun run for poor kids

DAVAO CITY—The SOS Children's Village, a non-profit organization that provides shelter and education to less fortunate children here, will launch "Ambit Lakaw-Dagan" on Sept. 16.

At least 181 children are currently under the care of SOS.

Ambit Lakaw-Dagan, a fun-run and a fun-walk, was aimed at raising funds and awareness on poor children.

The activity will start from the Gaisano Mall of Davao along J.P. Laurel Avenue at 5:30 a.m. Registration fee is P100. *Inquirer Mindanao*

Cold storage facilities

DAVAO CITY—SM Investment Corp. has provided cold storage facilities for vaccines and other medicines to various municipal health units in Mindanao.

Company officials said the project was implemented in partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

Marilyn Muncado, PBSP manager for Southern Mindanao, said the distribution was part of SM's social commitment.

Muncado said the beneficiaries of the project included the provinces of Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan, Sulu, Basilan, Lanao del Sur and Tawi-tawi in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Sarangani in Central Mindanao. *Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

Reb in cop's slay falls

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A suspected member of the New People's Army believed to be behind the murder of the chief of police of Cabuyao town in Laguna was arrested in Cuenca, Batangas, police said Thursday.

Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., Calabarzon police director, identified the suspect as Jerick Espiritu.

Radovan said Espiritu was a regular member of an NPA unit operating in the Bicol Region. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Iloilo searches for water

ILOILO CITY—The water district here revealed that its water supply was diminishing and it is now in search of new sources.

Jerry Guillergan, Metro Iloilo Water District project manager, said MIWD has formed a "water exploration team" to look for new sources of surface and deep well water.

MIWD gets 75 percent of its water requirements from the Maasin Watershed to supply the city of Iloilo and the municipalities of Maasin, Cabatuan, Sta. Barbara, Pavia, Oton and San Miguel.

MIWD has nine production wells in the towns of Pavia, San Miguel and Oton but these only fill up 25 percent of the water requirement of MIWD's concessionaires, Guillergan said.

He said two exploratory wells were now being considered in Pavia, with the consent of the local government.

David Israel Sinay, Inquirer Visayas

Lawyers hold congress

THE NATIONAL Union of People's Lawyers held their founding congress Wednesday and Thursday at the Golden Prince Hotel and Suites in Cebu City.

The NUPL is an association of volunteer human rights lawyers.

In a statement, the group said members of the union have agreed to render free legal services to victims of persecution, illegal arrest, torture and other human rights violations committed particularly against the poor.

Leaders of the union said the killings of 19 lawyers and 11 judges and the hundreds of extrajudicial killings of leftists and journalists required a more effective and systematic response from the legal profession.

Pampanga mayors' bid to seek control of quarry tax questioned

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A "syndicate in the offing" is what a former local official sees in the proposed ordinance of the Pampanga Mayors' League (PML) to regulate the province's multimillion-peso quarry industry.

The potential for monopoly is seen in a provision of proposed Ordinance No. 172 on the procurement of official receipts, said the source who did not want to be named due to possible reprisals from some mayors.

Return of scam

Section 5 of the planned measure states that "only the duly authorized representatives of the Provincial Federation of Quarry Associations shall be authorized to purchase official receipts for extraction of quarry resources from the province."

The source, who is knowledgeable in the province's quarry operations, said this was an attempt to return to the pre-1998 set-up when officials under the time of former governor and now Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid used leaders of quarry operators associations to collect illegal fees of P80 on top of the P40 allowed by law per truckload of sand.

The Office of the Ombudsman sued Lapid for graft and suspended him twice in 1998 and 1999. The Ombudsman withdrew the information in July 2004, prompting the Sandiganbayan to close the case.

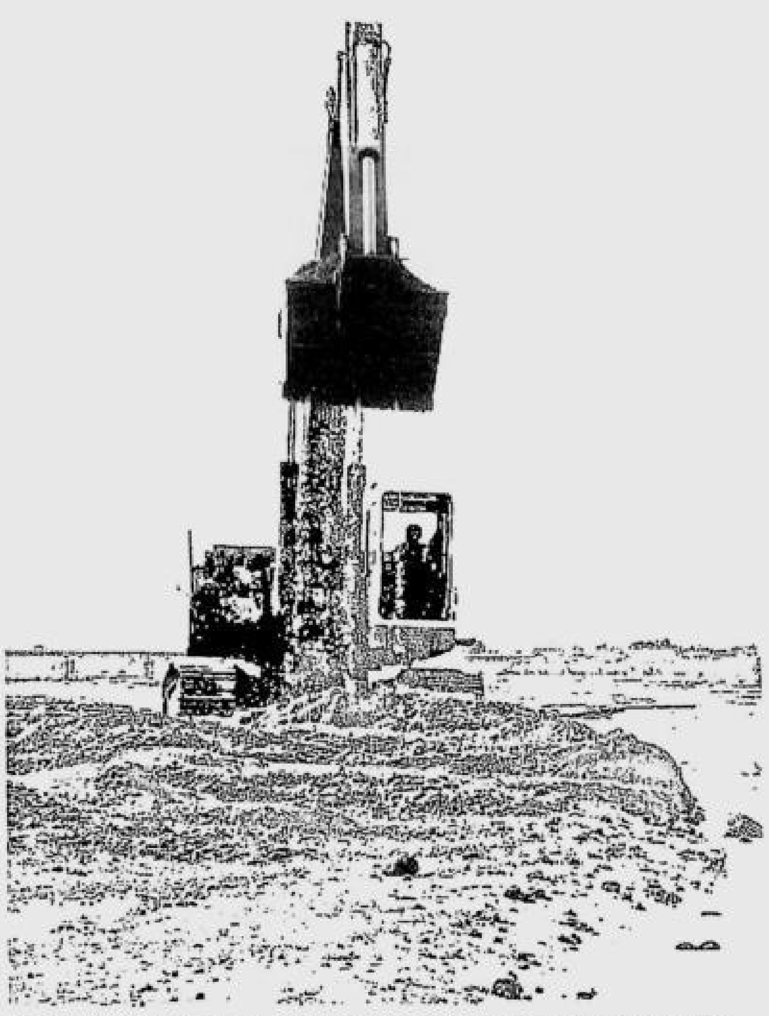
No resolution

The INQUIRER called Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, PML president, twice but he did not take the calls on Wednesday.

The draft ordinance was not accompanied by a resolution of the PML so it was not clear who among the mayors supported the measure.

According to the source, the proposed scrapping of the P150 administrative fee, which the provincial government spends to pay for the salaries of field personnel, will leave no funds for the provincial government to monitor the quarry industry, mainly in verifying the authenticity of the receipts and their re-use or faking.

Pre-determining the number of receipts per town or village opens the receipts to misuse, he said.



PAMPANGA'S sand industry, which priest-governor Eddie Panlilio has proved to be a multimillion tax-earner, is now the subject of a battle by mayors who want more revenues and bigger control.

EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

The source also found it "unconstitutional" that the mayors will regulate the quarry operators' associations or require them to join such organizations.

Unconstitutional

"This violates the right to self-organization or their freedom of association," he said.

The PML's plan to establish checkpoints and dispatch their own checkers also "encroach" on the governor's executive powers as mandated in the Local Government Code of 1991 and Philippine Mining Act of 1995, he said.

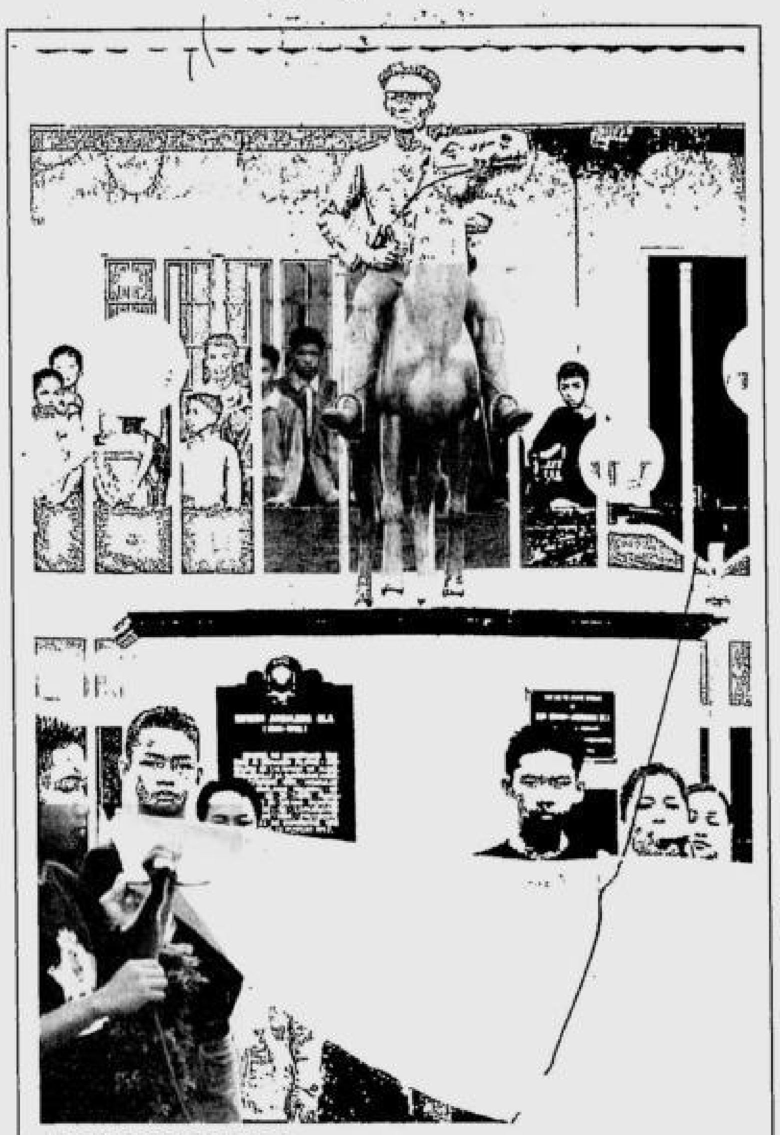
Even as the PML proposes a P300-tax per truckload and wants to divide that as P90-P90-P120 for the province, town and village, respectively, its draft was silent about local taxes. The towns collect between P50 and P90 on top of the capitol's P150 tax and P150 administrative fee.

Rationale

In the draft, the PML said the reforms it was introducing was for the protection of the environment; install checks, counterchecks and monitoring; make the collection location-based so the actual amounts due to towns and villages are properly computed; protect the welfare of operators; and put transparency in the use of official receipts.

Gov. Eddie Panlilio said he has instructed provincial legal officer Maria Elissa Velez to study the proposed ordinance.

"As we are mandated by law to do, we will put a high regard on the right of the people to truly benefit from mineral resources by way of social services from taxes that are properly collected and protected from any irregularities," Panlilio said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



BICOLANO HERO NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Hundreds of Bicolanos commemorated the 142nd birth anniversary recently of Gen. Simeon A. Ola, the last Filipino revolutionary general to surrender to American forces.

Sugar prices seen stable

BACOLOD CITY—SUGAR REGulatory Administrator Rafael Coscolluela said Thursday that the country's sugar industry faces brighter prospects than earlier projected because inventory figures now show a much lower surplus.

As of yesterday, the beginning inventory for the crop year showed an actual physical sugar inventory of 355,608 metric tons, which was much lower than the earlier projected figure of more than 500,000 MT, he said.

The actual withdrawal of sugar for the last crop year was 1,933,630 MT with an ending stock estimated at 375,000 MT, or a variance of 5 percent from the actual inventory, he said.

He said prices are likely to hover around P900 per 50-kg bag. The SRA earlier projected a composite price of P820 per 50-kg bag.

The SRA, based on the updated figures gathered under a revised monitoring system to see what actual market conditions are, is also looking at a revised sugar allocation for crop year 2007-2008, Coscolluela said. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

1ST INTER-DISTRICT CONFERENCE

14th District 17 Conference – 1st District 31 Conference

Theme: *"Living together, growing together with Zonta"*

Messages

Greetings to the Zonta International District 17 and 31 as you hold your 1st Inter-District Conference with the theme, "Living Together, Growing Together with Zonta".

Since 1919, the Zonta Club has a noble tradition of undertaking projects that benefit women worldwide through its service and advocacy programs. This conference, that will serve as a platinum for increased advocacy and service delivery for women empowerment, will surely contribute to further advance the status of women in the country.

Our national agenda is designed to move our country forward toward greater political stability, economic prosperity, and peace and order. Our focus now is to bring the benefits of a strong economy to every Filipino even as we put in place massive infrastructure to attract more investments, create more jobs and beat poverty.

I hope that you will join me in achieving this goal.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President Republic of the Philippines

Dear Zontians of Districts 17 and 31:

I am honored to be a member of District 17 and to be able to join you at our District Conference in Laoag.

At district conferences we come together as one, united family... to review our accomplishments and elect our new district leaders. We come...to plan our future strategies, to create synergies and find shared solutions to common issues and problems. We come...to do exciting and pleasurable things like making new friends and re-establishing old relationships, exchanging stories and ideas, and getting together for fun and fellowship. The district conference is an important milestone in the history of any district and I encourage all Zontians of Districts 17 and 31 to attend the Conference and to participate energetically. The success of this conference speaks to the strong initiative and efficient leadership in our district and the commitment of each Zontian to reap the utmost benefit from this remarkable experience.

I wish you all warmest felicitations on this momentous occasion. Congratulations and good luck!

OLIVIA A. FERRY
Zonta International President

Dear Governor Virma, dear Govenor Bi-Shiou, dear Zontians of Districts 17 and 31,

It is with great pleasure I will participate in your joint district conference and it is an honour to share this special occasion with International President Olivia Ferry.

My sincere thanks for all work done to organize this important conference to strengthen our efforts to develop Zonta International into a well respected organization for service and legal awareness of women's rights worldwide.

I wish you every success in your efforts to make this conference a stimulating and interesting opportunity for us all to meet and exchange ideas at an international level.

I am deeply honoured to have been appointed and invited to share these forward-looking discussions with you.

Beryl Sten
President-Elect Zonta International

Greetings of solidarity and faith!

I give my warmest welcome to all the delegates on the very first Inter-District Conference between Districts 17 and 31 of Zonta International. I thank the working committees from both Districts 17 and 31 for making this conference a successful reality.

Close to a century now, Zonta International has persistently been on the forefront on issues relating to women, children, and families. Through this Inter-District Conference which crosses the boundaries of six countries, we shall be promoting the objects of Zonta, receive the Zonta International President's message, conduct the business of the districts, elect our future district officers, focus greater regional attention on issues that matter most in the lives of women and their families thru the workshops and enjoy unlimited fellowship . There is no time more auspicious for this conference than now because today we are at a turning point in history – one that is full of both opportunity for increased global stability and the challenge of containing ethnic, religious, and regional challenges especially for women.

If we approach this turning point with the right energies, with decisiveness, with conviction, with unity of purpose, and with an unrelenting focus on our mission and vision – surely we will accomplish greater things for the future.

Indeed this is a time for leaders, a time for celebration, and a time for redefining the future. Great challenges lie ahead, certainly, but these very challenges offer even greater opportunity. Through bold initiatives like this inter-district conference we will seize these opportunities, respond to them, and help redefine the future, "Living Together, Growing Together with Zonta."

With that high level of optimism I wish everyone well in this, our 1st Inter-District Conference. Thank you very much and may God's blessings continue to be with us.

MA. VICTORIA VERGEL DE DIOS
Governor, District 17 Zonta International

Southeast Asia Zonta clubs to attend district conference in Laoag

At least 460 delegates from various Zonta Clubs of Hongkong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, and Taiwan have registered for the first ever Inter-District Conference at the Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino, Laoag City on September 14-16, 2007. Hosting this auspicious event is the Philippine-based Zonta Club of Ilocos Norte.

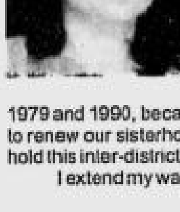
The first inter-district conference of District 17 and 31, dubbed with the theme, "Living Together, Growing Together with Zonta", aims to promote the objectives of Zonta International and to foster fellowship among its members. Similar to District 17's previous conferences, this year's conference also aims to serve as a venue for information exchange and experience-sharing on programs, projects and plans, which would address the issues and needs of women in the member-countries. The keynote speaker for this Inter-District Conference is no less than the first Asian Zonta International President, Olivia A. Ferry. Another very special guest is Zonta International President-elect Beryl Sten of Sweden.

The executive committee, led by Zonta Governors Virma Vergel De Dios of District 17 and Bi-Shiou Chiou of District 31, has designed a multi-faceted program of activities that would make the 3-day conference a very meaningful and beneficial one for all the participants. Aside from the anticipated participation of ZIP Olivia Ferry, the conference showcases very informative workshops on (a) The Zonta Differential: How Zonta Can Be The Service Organization of Choice for Various Stakeholders or How to Differentiate Zonta from Other Service Organizations to Gain Competitive Advantage; (b) How to Strengthen our Service Efforts Through Advocacy; (c) Retention Strategies; Sharing Promising Practices on How to Keep Your Members; and (d) Not One Minute More: Advocacy Against Trafficking of Women and Girls. In addition to these very interesting and informative workshops are the orientation for first-timer participants, and photo exhibits depicting the achievements and accomplishments of each Zonta Club. Similar to other District conferences, an election will be held on the 2nd day for the new officers of District 17 and 31, who will continue the pursuit of the two districts for the next biennium. On the lighter side, activities such as the opening of the bazaar, the fellowship and talent night, and the multi-cultural fashion show of Zontians who will model their respective national costumes, Zonta uniforms, and formal wear designed by popular fashion designers, would definitely pave the way for many Zontians to develop stronger relationships with each other that would then further Zonta's objectives. A traditional Ilocano custom will likewise be presented during the program's memorial service. In addition to these Zonta events, organizers also prepared three optional tours for the delegates to visit the different tourist attractions of the captivating Ilocos, such as the Heritage City of Vigan and the legendary Paoay Lake.

The full packed event was also through the efforts of the Conference Organizing Chairmen Mary C. Ang and Ching Fong Yeh and their organizing Co-chairmen: Alegria M. Valenciano and Mei Jane Tzou for Administration; Purisima A. Bueno, M.D. and Sophie Lee for Operations; and Editha P. Medina and Eve Wang for Finance.

On Sept. 13, 2007, dignitaries from the six (6) different Asian Countries will be arriving for the pre-event activities of the conference, which include an audience with the Hon. City Mayor Michael V. Fariñas and the Hon. Gov. Michael Marcos Keon; a press conference; the Board Meeting of Officers of the two districts; followed by a Welcome Dinner.

On Sept. 14, 2007, the first day of the Conference, Laoag City Mayor Michael Fariñas will welcome the 460 delegates, while Ilocos Norte Governor Michael Marcos Keon will give his message during the closing ceremonies of the conference.



It is a great pleasure to hold this inter-district conference of District 17 and District 31 in Laoag City, Republic of the Philippines. We are very honored to have International President Olivia Ferry and International President-elect Beryl Sten attend this event as the International Representatives.

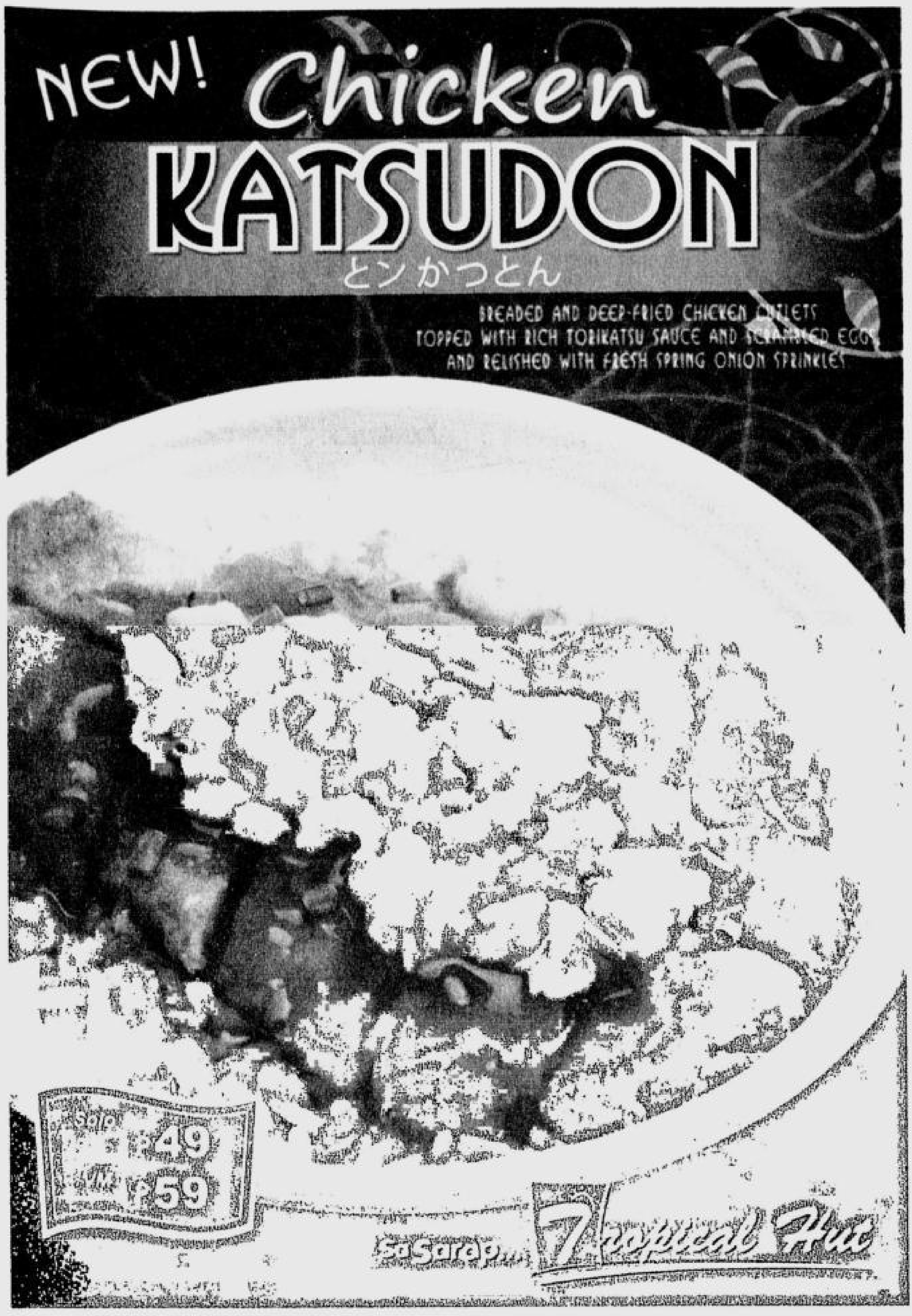
"Living together, growing together with Zonta" is the theme of this conference. Indeed we have to work together smartly to achieve the Zonta object of "To Advance the Status of Women through Service and Advocacy". Relevant issues will be discussed at workshops during this conference period. Your participation will be a rewarding experience.

My deepest gratitude goes to Organizing Committee Chairpersons Mary Ang and Chin-Fong Yeh and their members, who dedicated their efforts, wisdom and time for the success of this conference. My heartfelt "thank you" goes to Governor Virma, who has done most of the work for me during the preparation of this inter-district conference.

As some of you may know, Zonta Clubs in Taiwan belonged to Area 4 of District 17 between 1979 and 1990, became Area 2 of District 26 in 1990 and District 31 in 2006. This is the first District 31 conference and we hope to renew our sisterhood with Zontians of District 17. I appreciate governor Virma very much that she accepted my proposal to hold this inter-district conference and we hope that we can have sister clubs in District 17 in the near future.

I extend my warm welcome and hope your stay in Laoag will be delightful and memorable.

BI-SHIOU CHIOU
Governor, District 31, Zonta International



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MILF calls for peace at start of Ramadan

COTABATO CITY—THE CHIEF OF THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) urged Muslims at the start of Ramadan on Wednesday night to unite in seeking a comprehensive and lasting peace in Mindanao despite the stalled peace talks and recent clashes with government troops.

"Let us redouble our efforts toward attaining our most coveted objective to regain our usurped freedom and immorally annexed homeland," Murad Ebrahim said in a message. "Be it known to everyone that the MILF leadership is ready to work for peace even during the fasting month of Ramadan."

Yesterday, most of the world's 1.2 billion Muslims began observing Ramadan, the holy month of dawn-to-dusk fasting, festivities—and abstinence. The start of Ramadan, the ninth and holiest month of the Muslim calendar, is traditionally determined by the sighting of a new crescent moon, often dividing rival Islamic countries and sects over the exact date.

Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has declared a special nonworking holiday in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Shariff Kabunsuan and Marawi City.

Formal peace talks on ending the decades-long Moro insurgency in Mindanao, brokered by neighboring Malaysia, stalled last year over the size of the southern region that would fall under MILF control.

A 2003 ceasefire between the rebel group and the government was shaken in July when 14 Marines were killed—10 of them beheaded—following a clash with MILF guerrillas in Basilan.

Malaysia has since extended its peace monitoring mission in the southern Philippines and urged the rebels and the government to resume peace talks.

Ebrahim said the advent of Ramadan "is an opportune time to recognize and appreciate the efforts of all the stakeholders in the peace process."

International support

The MILF, he said, was thankful for the support extended by the international community to the effort to resolve the rebellion. The peace talks are backed by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Canada, the United States, Spain, Japan and some European countries.

Foreign donors have continued to pour in development funds aimed at boosting the peace process in Mindanao.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's peace adviser, Jesus Dureza, said the talks could resume at any time, depending on the parties.

"We are close to a peace agreement with the MILF," the President said on Wednesday. "I remain optimistic we can overcome the final barriers … so that we can bring finality to the peace."

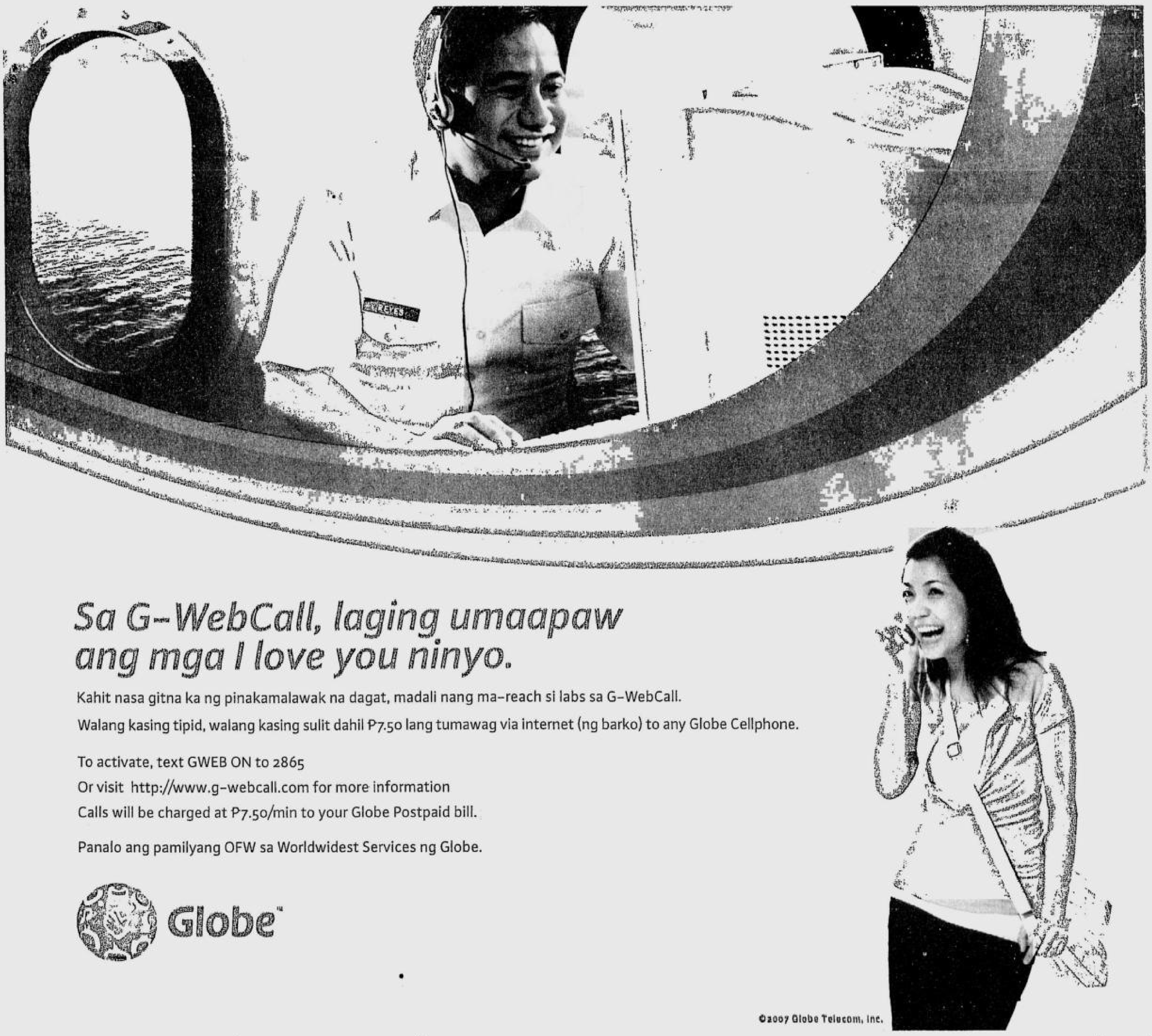
Filipino Muslims, who make up about 5 percent of the majority Christian population of 89 million, have long complained of economic and political neglect and have charged successive Philippine administrations with colonizing the southern areas where they were once the majority.

No food, drink, sex

Across much of the Muslim world, Ramadan began on Thursday, although Libya kicked off the festivities on Wednesday, the same day as Nigerian Muslims.

During the holy month, Muslims are required to abstain from food, drink and sex from dawn until dusk as life slips into a low gear during the day, and activity peaks be-

MILF/A17



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8th suspect in child rape-slay gives up

Wanting to clear his name, he is instead tagged as mastermind

HENRY Tesado (middle), the prime suspect in the rape and killing of a 7-year-old child, with District Director Magtanggol Gatdula (left) and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Quezon City field office chief Senior Supt. Nelson Yabut (right) at Camp Karingal in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

By Jeannette I. Andrade

HENRY TESADO SURRENDERED to the Quezon City Police District to clear his name of involvement in the rape and killing of 7-year-old Geraldine Palma.

Instead, the carnival employee and Leyte native was tagged as the mastermind of the gruesome crime.

With Tesado in custody, Manila Police District (MPD) homicide division head Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling yesterday declared the case closed. Only one of the nine suspects remains at large. The girl's nanny, Maritess "Mayette" Ontog, said to be the last person seen with the victim, is reportedly hiding in Leyte province.

Also in police custody are Ramil Diorico, Rosdam Mesias, Domingo Agnote, Gerry Igos, Renato Bohol, Joey Egos, and Ricardo Campas. Mesias and Agnote offered to turn state witnesses.

At a press conference yesterday, Tesado coolly faced the media and declared his innocence.

The body of the young rape-slay victim was stuffed inside a bag found Aug. 16 behind the ECD warehouse at the Manila International Container Terminal Compound, Isla Puting Bato, North Harbor, Tondo in Manila.

Tesado, who also uses the aliases "Henlet" and "Henry Redoblado," said he was surprised he was tagged as a main suspect. He surrendered to QCPD Anti-Carnapping Unit head Chief Insp. Angelo Nicolas around 8 p.m., Wednesday in Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City.

A witness named "Berta" had pointed to Tesado as the one who allegedly initiated the rape of the 7-year-old girl and who stuffed her into the suitcase. The witness claimed she saw the girl being raped by the suspects inside a shanty and how the body was disposed of.

Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Quezon City field office chief Senior Supt. Nelson Yabut said Tesado had pending criminal cases for murder and robbery. Tesado was a suspect in the killing of Jaime Claridad on Dec. 23, 2000, during a robbery in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City, but he denied he was involved in the heist.

Manila honors Sakay, Hernandez

By Allison W. Lopez

MANILA MAYOR Alfredo Lim reminded public officials to "serve the country unselfishly" as the city marked yesterday the 100th death anniversary of Katipunan general Macario Sakay and the 104th birth anniversary of labor activist and nationalist writer Amado V. Hernandez.

Of the brave general from Tondo, Lim said: "He should be emulated by those in public service. Most of them only pursue selfish interests, and just think of ways to fool the people."

A wreath-laying ceremony was held at the plaza in Tondo named after Hernandez. It was organized by the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission, in cooperation with the National Historical Institute.

The opposition mayor, still affected by the guilty verdict received by his friend former President Joseph Estrada, said his remarks were directed at both incumbent and former officials.

Hernandez, also a labor leader, was jailed by the Quirino administration in 1951 on rebellion charges.

Lim said while Sakay symbolized the "sword," Hernandez used the strength of the "pen" to fight for the rights of the oppressed and promote nationalism.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
PHILJOUN TOUR & TRAVEL CORP. G-1 Legaspi Tower 300 Roxas Blvd., Manila	Sanghee Moon (w/o O) Korean	Marketing Manager
SUNG JI-PHIL INDUSTRIAL CORP. 293 Real St., Aldana, Las Piñas City	Seong Chil Lee Korean	Quality Control Manager
KOREA TOURISM ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES INC. S-204 Sunrise Center Bldg., P. Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila	Changho Shim Korean	Travel Consultant
SEOUL DE MYOUNG RESTAURANT 5362 Gen. Luna St., Poblacion, Makati City	Ae Ja Park (wife of KIM) Korean	Food Consultant
METROBANK CARD CORPORATION 12/F MCC Center, 6778 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Brian Walter Scott Australian	Director
A PLUS CHINESE LANGUAGE CENTER & PRE-SCHOOL, INC. Level 4, Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Xiaoya Li Chinese	Chinese Language Consultant/Instructor
A PLUS CHINESE LANGUAGE CENTER & PRE-SCHOOL, INC. Level 4, Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jianping Chen. Chinese	Chinese Language Consultant/Instructor
A PLUS CHINESE LANGUAGE CENTER & PRE-SCHOOL, INC. Level 4, Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Yang Yang Chinese	Chinese Language Consultant/Instructor
SAN-YEI (PHILIPPINE) TRADING CORPORATION 4/F Makati Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Isao Takashima Japanese	Merchandising Manager-Japanese Desk
PILIPINAS INTERNATIONAL MARKETING SERVICES, INC. 28/F Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City	Yolanda Agustina Simatupang Indonesian	Indonesian Customer Service Associate
PILIPINAS INTERNATIONAL MARKETING SERVICES, INC. 28/F Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City	Theresia Silumorang Indonesian	Indonesian Confirmation Associate
CHINA WUWI CO., LTD. 15/F Victoria Bldg., 429 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila	Qisheng Nian Chinese	Comptroller
WOODS GLOBE EDU CORP. Silicon St. cor. Marbles Rd., Pillar Village, Las Piñas City	Ki Yeoul Seo Korean	Assistant Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

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OIC, Regional Director

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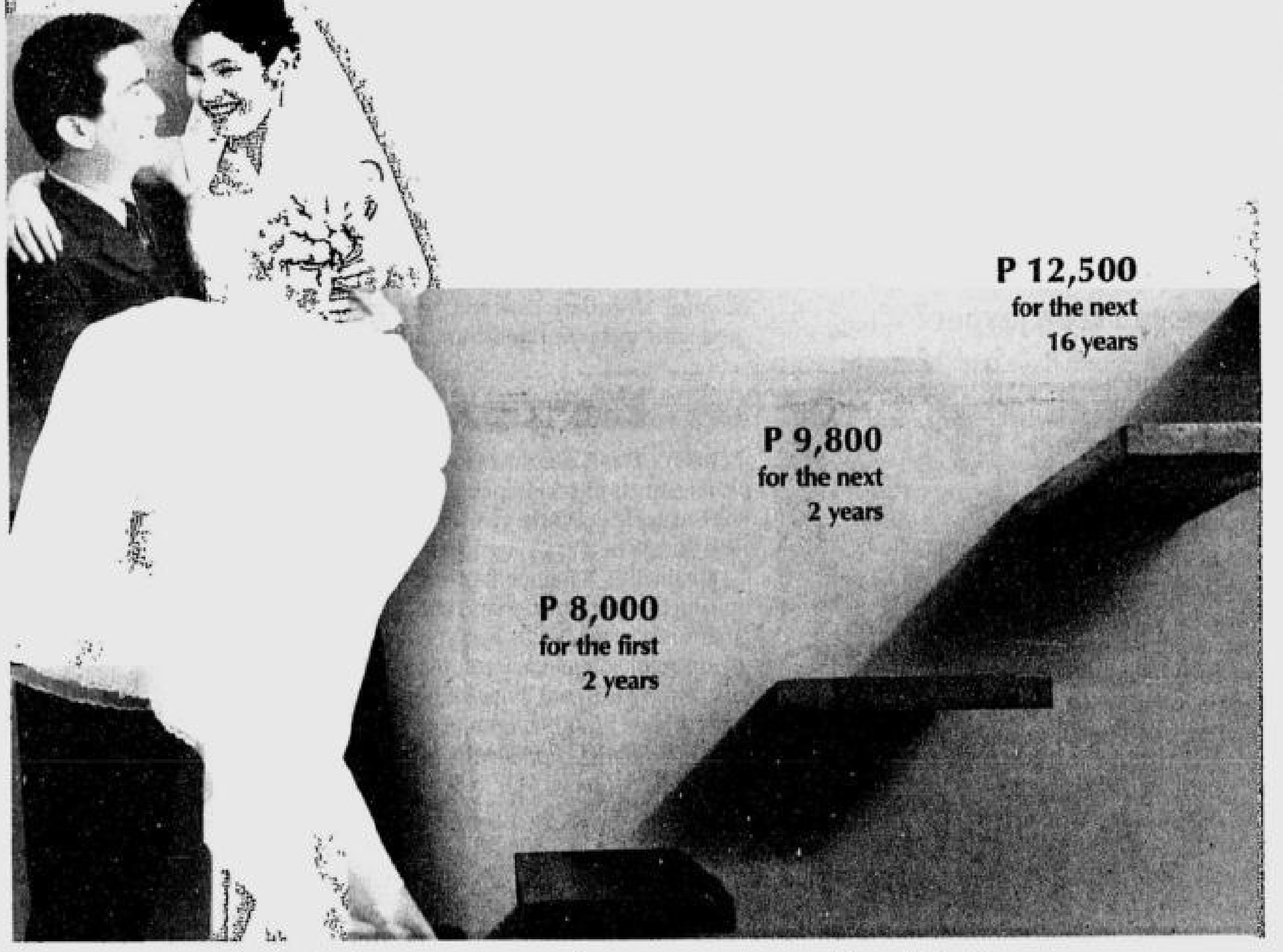

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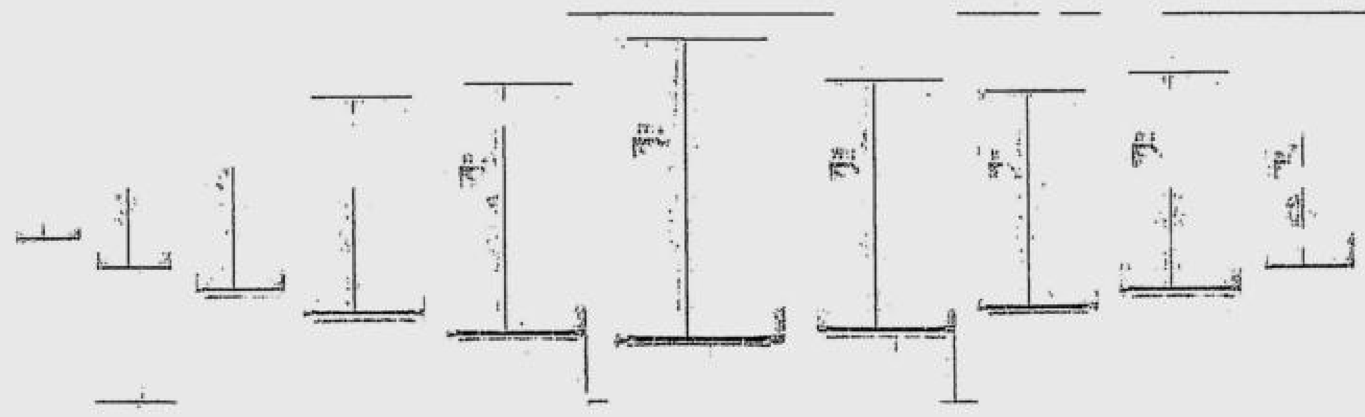

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METROBRIEFS

Korean trader nabbed

A KOREAN businessman was arrested before dawn yesterday by the Makati police for allegedly abducting a fellow Korean and abusing her before she escaped from his flat where he kept her captive for three days. The Makati chief of police, Supt. Gilbert Cruz, said kidnapping and physical injuries, among other charges, would be filed against Tae Ku, the manager of a Quezon City hair salon, for abducting the woman and keeping her against her will. Based on the investigation, the victim, who writes for a Korean newspaper, was looking for a new place to stay when she found Ku's number on the Internet and arranged to meet with him in his apartment at P. Burgos Street on Sept. 11. The suspect, who said he also owned a travel agency, invited her to go up to his place, check the unit and have dinner with him, she told investigators. But when she was about to leave, Ku suddenly grabbed her hands, pulled her back inside and threatened to kill her if she resisted, the woman told the police. She said the suspect then tied her hands and feet, covered her mouth with tape, and repeatedly kicked and beat her. She also alleged that she was sexually assaulted. Cruz said the woman managed to escape through the window, knocking on the window of a neighbor, who alerted the police. *DJ Yap*

Magno-Medina burial

Glorificacion Magno-Medina, wife of Judge Rustico Medina, will be buried on Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park in Caloocan City. She died last Friday at the age of 77. Surviving her are her husband and children engineer Romeo and Arnie, lawyers Iluminada and Rudy Libatique, Rustico Jr. and Jasmin, Felixberto, Ma. Zosima and Lydia and grand children and great grandchildren.

Landscaping workshops

SEMINAR-WORKSHOPS on home landscaping for profit and leisure will be offered by Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla from Sept 15-16 at Mett's Plant Art Shop, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Topics include identification of plants and other materials, sourcing of materials, understanding the meaning of Zen, and care and maintenance of a garden. All materials will be provided with snacks, handouts and certificates. Registration is now ongoing. Those who register at least five days before the seminar get a 10 percent discount. Call 9394593, 4352479, 0917-8321352 or e-mail mettsplants@yahoo.com.ph.

Have you seen Jaypee?

SINCE Aug. 15, John Paul "Jaypee" Javier, 15, has not returned home nor can he be contacted through his cellphone. Jaypee stands 5'9", weighs about 160 lbs., and has been described as "very friendly." Any information on his whereabouts can be relayed to his parents, Taling and Charito Javier, at 620 Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City, or at tel. numbers 410-5392, 419-0557 and 938-7203.

Exhibit of 'bright' ideas hopes to help budget-conscious folks

By Kristine L. Alave

CHANGE YOUR BULBS, SAVE MONEY and save the world.

This was the gist of the message of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the world's largest conservation group, as it urged yesterday Filipino households to replace incandescent light bulbs for energy efficient compact fluorescent (CFL) lights.

Susan Roxas, WWF marketing head, said using CFLs would lessen lighting bills by as much as 30 percent.

She said shifting to CFLs was one of the simplest and easiest energy management solutions for a household.

"One light bulb alone can make a large difference," Roxas said at the launch of WWF's exhibit, in partnership with Philips Electronics and Lighting Inc., in Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City.

"It might seem trivial to some people, but ... switching from incandescent to CFL translates not only to considerable peso savings but also to a more sustainable future for everyone," Wee Shiang Ning, Philips general manager said.

Roxas said the majority of Filipino households still had at least one incandescent light bulb. The WWF and Philips said only about 30 percent of Filipino homes had switched from yellow-light bulbs to white-light CFLs.

Roxas admitted that the CFLs were slightly more expensive but was worth the price because of the savings in terms of energy consumption.

The CFLs also lasted years, Roxas said, compared to incandescent bulbs.

According to Philips' computation, a switch from a 100-watt incandescent lamp to an 18-watt CFL for 12-hour use every day can save up to P4,686 in one and a half years.

Philips said cutting energy spent on lighting by 40 percent would prevent the release into the air of 555 million tons of carbon dioxide.

The firm and WWF have partnered to make the public more aware of the benefits of CFLs through its three-day Wardens of the World exhibit in Shangri-La Plaza.

WARDENS OF THE

PHILIPS general manager Wee Shiang Ning and ballerina Liza Macuja view the ongoing photo exhibit with an energy conservation theme at the Edsa Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong City.

RUDY ESPERAS

Peta presses campaign for zoo closure

By Tina G. Santos

MEMBERS OF THE ANIMAL RIGHTS group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) renewed yesterday calls for the closure of all zoos in the country.

Protesters painted from head to toe in bright colors held a lunchtime rally in front of the Manila Zoo and the Botanical Garden in Malate carrying banners that read: "Let animals show their real colors, boycott the zoos."

The protest was part of Peta's worldwide campaign against zoos, said Rochelle Regodon, campaigns manager.

"Zoos only present us with a distorted view of wildlife. Visitors don't see the animals' natural behavior because the animals' natural needs—space, exercise, privacy and mental stimulation aren't met. They just wait to be fed and basically sleep the whole day," she told reporters. Some of the animals in the zoo were often "kidnapped" from the wild leading to "zoochosis," she added. "This is when animals are driven 'mad' by captivity."

Symptoms of zoochosis include biting, rubbing the mouth along—or even sucking on—the bars of a cage, continuous licking of walls, bars or gates of enclosure; continuous pacing, unnatural twisting and rolling of the neck, often flicking the head around or bending the neck back and repeated vomiting.

Other signs that zoo animals are disturbed are circling or walking a defined route, placing feet in exactly the same position each time, playing with and eating excrement, sitting, sometimes hugging the legs, rocking forward and back; head-bobbing and weaving, over-grooming including hair-plucking and self-mutilation such as tail-biting, leg chewing or head-bashing. Regodon cited the elephant, whose social structure and natural habitat were extremely complex and could not be duplicated in captivity.

In the wild, elephants walked up to 48 km every day, she said.

In the Manila Zoo, the elephant had a concrete enclosure with a little grass. The entire zoo itself "measures 5.5 hectares or .055 sq km," she added.

"These animals are bred or captured for a lifetime of loneliness and misery. The best way to help stop the suffering is to boycott the zoo," she said.

"Let's just leave animals in the wild and use zoos as sanctuaries for animals rescued from circuses, marine parks and other exploitative forms of entertainment," Regodon said. "We're better off watching nature documentaries, reading about animals in books or on websites, or traveling to their natural habitats."

The animal rights group said they supported the plan to convert the Manila Zoo, which it described as a "decrepit prison," into a sports complex.

In an earlier interview, Manila Zoo administrator Dr. Romulo Bernardo said zoos had an important educational function.

"By seeing animals up close, you get to appreciate and understand them. You don't get the same experience by just watching them on TV or reading about them in books," Bernardo said. "Children need to see animals up close in order to appreciate them and work for their conservation, especially the endangered species."

Some vendors in the zoo, however, said they objected to the Peta campaign because it would deprive them of livelihood opportunities.

DID YOU KNOW

SEVENTY-EIGHT percent of the nearly seven million members of socioeconomic classes ABCD in the Greater Manila Area own a mobile phone line. This translates to over five million persons.

Meanwhile, 55 percent (more than three million persons) own a land line. The figures are from a recent study by Synovate, a leading global market intelligence company. Members of classes ABCD are those whose households earn at least P8,001 monthly.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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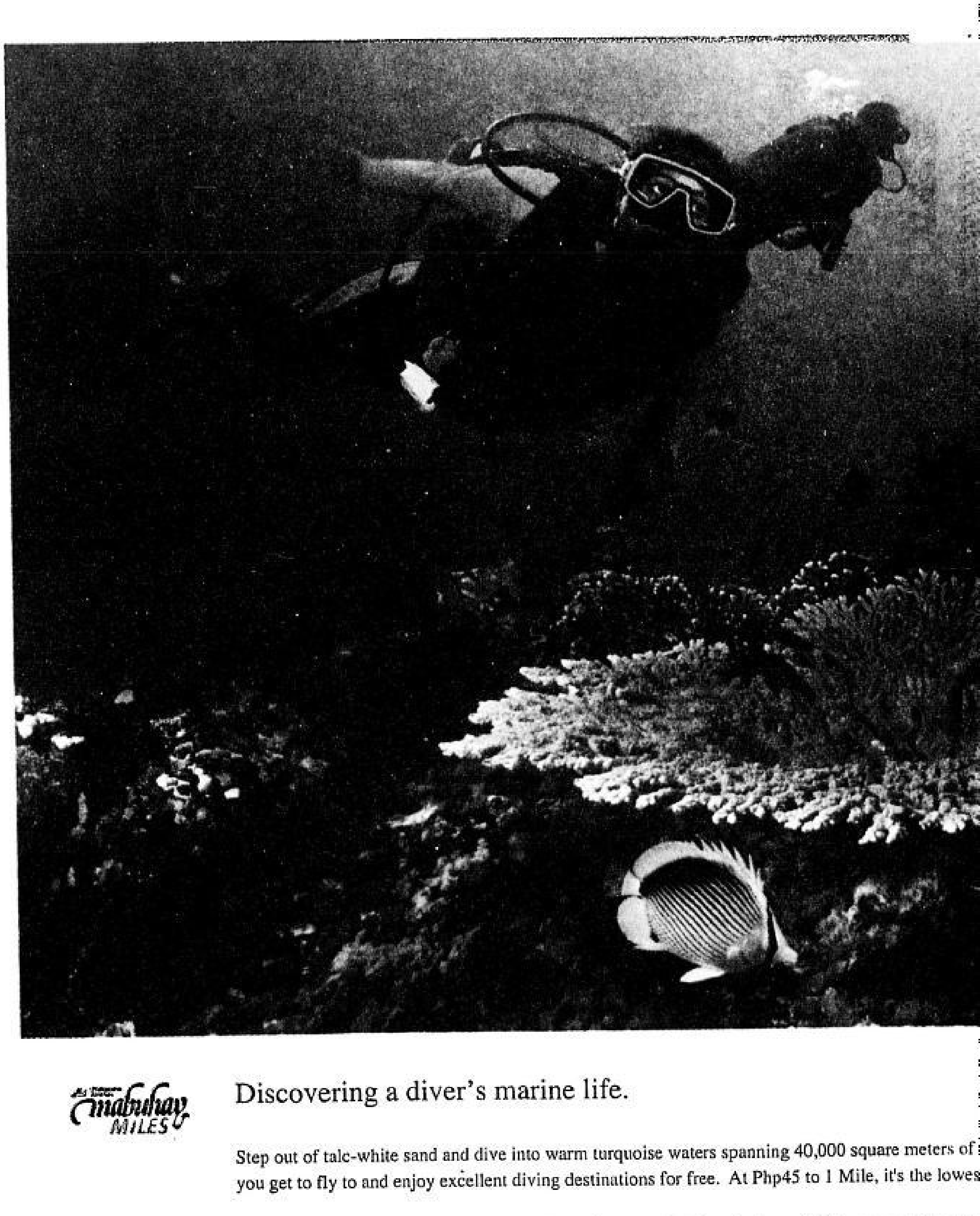

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Abe hospitalized after quitting

TOKYO—JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER Shinzo Abe was hospitalized on Thursday for psychological stress and exhaustion a day after suddenly announcing his resignation, his doctors said, compounding political confusion in the world's second-largest economy.

Abe, 52, was to remain hospitalized for at least three or four days, his doctors said, leaving the care of his scandal-scarred government with his top deputy, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kaoru Yosano, as the troubled ruling party scrambled to find a replacement.

Kyodo News agency reported the ruling Liberal Democratic Party would hold its election for party president on Sept. 23. The winner is assured of being elected prime minister by parliament because of the LDP majority in the lower house. The LDP refused to immediately confirm the report.

Abe's hospitalization indicated health concerns had contributed to his abrupt announcement on Wednesday that he would step down. Toshifumi Hibi, a top doctor treating Abe at Keio University Hospital, said he had gastrointestinal inflammation and had been put on intravenous saline drip.

ABE REUTERS

"He is suffering from extreme exhaustion," Hibi said. "He has lost weight. Symptoms include abdominal pain, digestion problems and lack of appetite. These symptoms can be attributed to physical exhaustion and psychological stress."

Hibi said Abe had lost about five kilograms (11 pounds), and that he'd also recently been taking sleeping pills.

Abe announced on Wednesday he would quit, citing political reasons. Other government officials, however, including Yosano, said Abe suffered from unspecified health issues that contributed to his departure.

Yosano said Abe had been receiving regular checks from his personal doctor since returning from a trip abroad over the summer. He also said that the crisis had not reached the level where an acting prime minister needed to be named.

"His doctor determined that his fatigue level has reached its peak, so I think that the doctor concluded that he needed to be examined at a well-equipped hospital," Yosano said.

Abe's resignation, meanwhile, left the troubled ruling Liberal Democratic Party to scramble for a replacement amid growing calls for a general election to give voters a role in choosing the new government.

The front-runner to replace Abe, former foreign minister and fellow conservative Taro Aso, was expected to announce his candidacy later Thursday. Kyodo News reported the Liberal Democratic Party would decide the election schedule on Thursday and campaigning could start as soon as Friday.

Abe's popular predecessor, Junichiro Koizumi, reportedly refused supporters' plea to join the race. But Finance Minister Fukushiro Nukaga, who served as defense minister under Koizumi, said he wanted to run.

Calls for a snap election for the powerful lower house of parliament, which chooses the prime minister, gathered steam Thursday amid the confusion. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

16,300 species threatened

WASHINGTON—From the lowland gorillas of Africa to corals of the Galapagos Islands, more than 16,300 species are threatened with extinction, the World Conservation Union said on Wednesday in its annual Red List. In what is billed as the world's most authoritative assessment of Earth's plants and animals, the global group considered 41,415 species and found that of those, 16,306 were under threat, said Craig Hilton-Tailor, the list's manager. That is nearly 200 more species of wildlife than last year, Hilton-Tailor said in a telephone interview. ***Reuters***

Castro not dying

HAVANA—Two senior Cuban officials said on Wednesday that Cuban leader Fidel Castro, absent from public view for more than a year, is recovering from an intestinal problem that required several operations. Cuban Culture Minister Abel Prieto said Castro was not at death's door and dismissed rumors in Miami of his demise as "wishful thinking" by exiled opponents. Prieto said he had no inside information on Castro's medical condition, but deduced from the 81-year-old leader's regular essays and columns that he is not dying. ***Reuters***

Austria nabs 3 al-Qaida suspects

VIENNA—Austrian authorities detained three suspected al-Qaida activists on Wednesday in connection with a videotape threat against Austria and Germany for their role in Afghanistan, officials said. Interior Minister Guenther Platter said the two men, aged 20 and 26, and a 21-year-old woman were "in contact with al-Qaida networks" but did not form an "operational group" planning violence. "At no time did they represent a threat against Austria," he said, adding that they were still being questioned. Public security chief, Erich Buxbaum, said the three, all resident in Vienna, were second-generation Austrian Muslims whose families came from the Arab world. ***AFP***

Putin reshuffles gov't

MOSCOW—President Vladimir V. Putin accepted the resignation of Russia's prime minister on Wednesday and nominated Viktor A. Zubkov, the low-profile chief of a financial crimes agency, to assume the post. The moves signaled the beginning of an internal Kremlin rearrangement ahead of parliamentary elections in the late fall and Putin's expected transfer of presidential power next year. The instant rise to prominence of the unheralded Zubkov, a confidant of Putin, added a new element of suspense for the two Russian officials long regarded as the principal presidential contenders: Sergei B. Ivanov and Dmitry A. Medvedev, both first deputy prime ministers. ***NYT***

Experts rush to contain Congo Ebola outbreak

KINSHASA—HEALTH WORKERS LAUNCHED an emergency operation on Wednesday to fight an outbreak of deadly Ebola hemorrhagic fever in southern Congo, airlifting supplies, setting up isolation tents and disinfecting contaminated areas.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and medical NGOs such as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) joined local health authorities in a major logistics operation to try to contain the outbreak in Kasai Occidental province of Democratic Republic of Congo.

Congo's government, citing test results from international laboratories, said on Monday at least five cases of Ebola had been confirmed in the province, where authorities have reported more than 160 deaths among 352 sick people over four months.

Several African countries have suffered previous outbreaks of the highly contagious disease, which causes death in 50 to 90 percent of cases and is transmitted by contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected persons.

No vaccine or treatment exists that can cure Ebola fever.

MSF was reinforcing its health team in the Kasai Occidental village of Kampungu, the epicenter of the latest outbreak, and had flown three tonnes of supplies to the provincial capital Kananga for distribution in the worst-affected areas.

This included tents and plastic sheeting. "We have to build structures to isolate the patients," said Pascale Zintzen, a spokesperson for MSF in Kinshasa.

Medicines and water and sanitation materials, such as water tanks and chlorine for disinfectant, were also being sent.

So too were "Ebola Kits"—protective gloves, boots, glasses, masks, uniforms, aprons and hoods—for the medical teams. The disease is so contagious that protective clothing can only be used once and then must be carefully destroyed. *Reuters*

New outbreak of FMD discovered in Britain

LONDON—A NEW OUTBREAK of foot-and-mouth disease among cattle was confirmed in Britain on Wednesday, prompting the European Union to reimpose a ban on British meat exports.

The new case was discovered close to a farm south of London where an outbreak was first reported last month, while the agriculture ministry confirmed that animals on an adjacent farm to the latest site were to be slaughtered "on suspicion" of infection.

Restrictions imposed in August were only lifted four days ago and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) imposed a new England-wide ban on the movement of cattle, sheep, pigs and other ruminants.

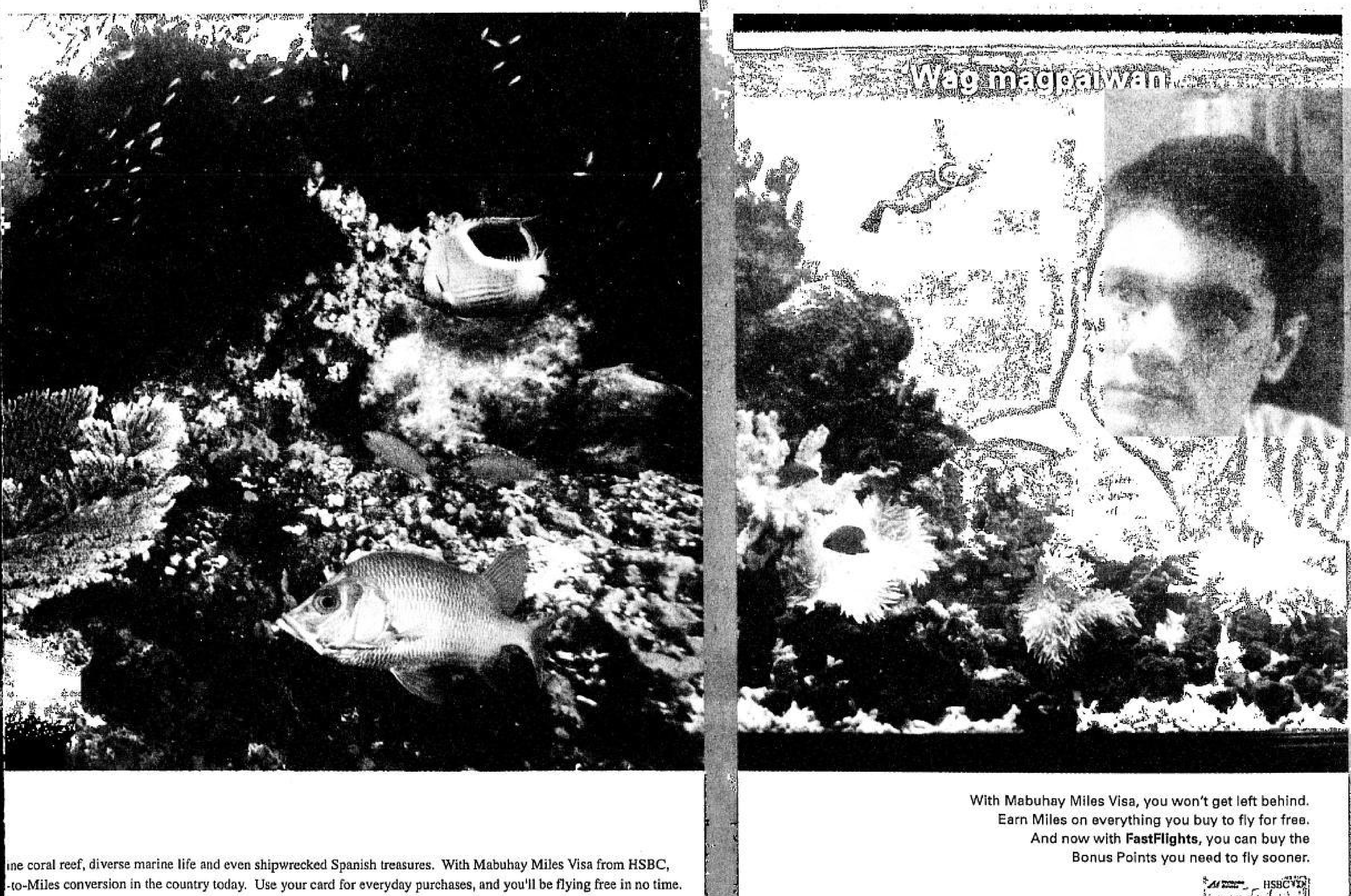
Cattle were ordered slaughtered on the affected farm, near Egham, west of London. Egham is 21 km from the village of Normandy, where foot and mouth disease was confirmed on Aug. 3.

A 3-kilometer protection zone was thrown around the farm holdings with a wider 10-km surveillance zone imposed on the farm.

Animals on the farm next to that site were to be slaughtered because they were suspected of having been infected, Defra said in a statement on Wednesday evening.

"This is a precautionary measure and was identified by Animal Health during surveillance this afternoon," it said in a statement.

The European Union reimposed a total ban on meat and livestock exports from Britain to the other 26 member states, the European Commission said. *AFP*



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Massive aftershocks shake Indonesia

BENGKULU, INDONESIA—HUGE AFTERshocks rumbled across Indonesia's Sumatra island on Thursday, as rescue teams sped to the area after a massive 8.4-magnitude earthquake killed at least six people.

The follow-on shocks, including one as strong as magnitude 7.8, drew new tsunami warnings from Indonesian authorities and panicked thousands of people who had already spent the night outdoors afraid of being buried alive.

Dozens of people were also reported injured in Wednesday night's huge quake, and officials said they feared the death toll could still rise. In many places, phone lines and electricity were down.

The quake was strong enough to shake buildings in Thailand and Malaysia, and set off a tsunami alert as far away as eastern Africa—raising memories of the December 2004 tsunami catastrophe that killed 220,000 people.

But the initial reports from some parts of the Sumatran coast suggested that this nation of 17,000 islands, victim of some of the world's deadliest earthquakes in the past, may have been spared the worst.

The healthy ministry's crisis center said six people had been confirmed dead and at least 38 had been injured in the quake, which hit underwater some 300 kilometers off the Sumatran town of Bengkulu.

"My wife was washing the dishes and my two sons were taking a bath," said Samsul Anwar, sitting in a tent at the main hospital in the town. He had rushed home when he felt the ground shake violently.

"The roof of the house had collapsed, hitting my wife in the head," Anwar said, comforting his son lying injured on a stretcher. "She is dead." Fearing any further damage, hospital authorities have moved intensive care patients and others to outdoor tents.

"I was running to avoid collapsing walls but I fell down and my shoulder hit a rock," said another patient, 26-year-old Hari.

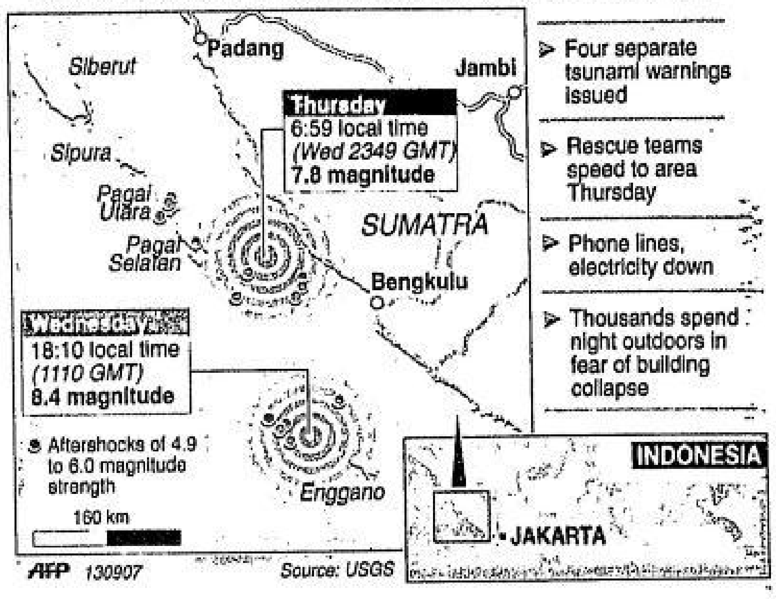
"People were afraid because we heard the tsunami warning, so we were trying to get quickly to higher ground," he said.

The powerful quake, which came on the eve of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, toppled buildings and split open others in at least one town, Mukomuko, on Sumatra's western coast, local police said.

On Wednesday, the US Geological Survey gradually upgraded the strength of the quake from 7.9 to 8.2 to 8.4. Any quake over 7.0 is considered strong enough to cause massive destruction and heavy loss of life. *AFP*

Sumatra rocked by massive quakes

Aftershocks following Wednesday's 8.4 magnitude quake drew additional tsunami warnings and panicked thousands


Padang
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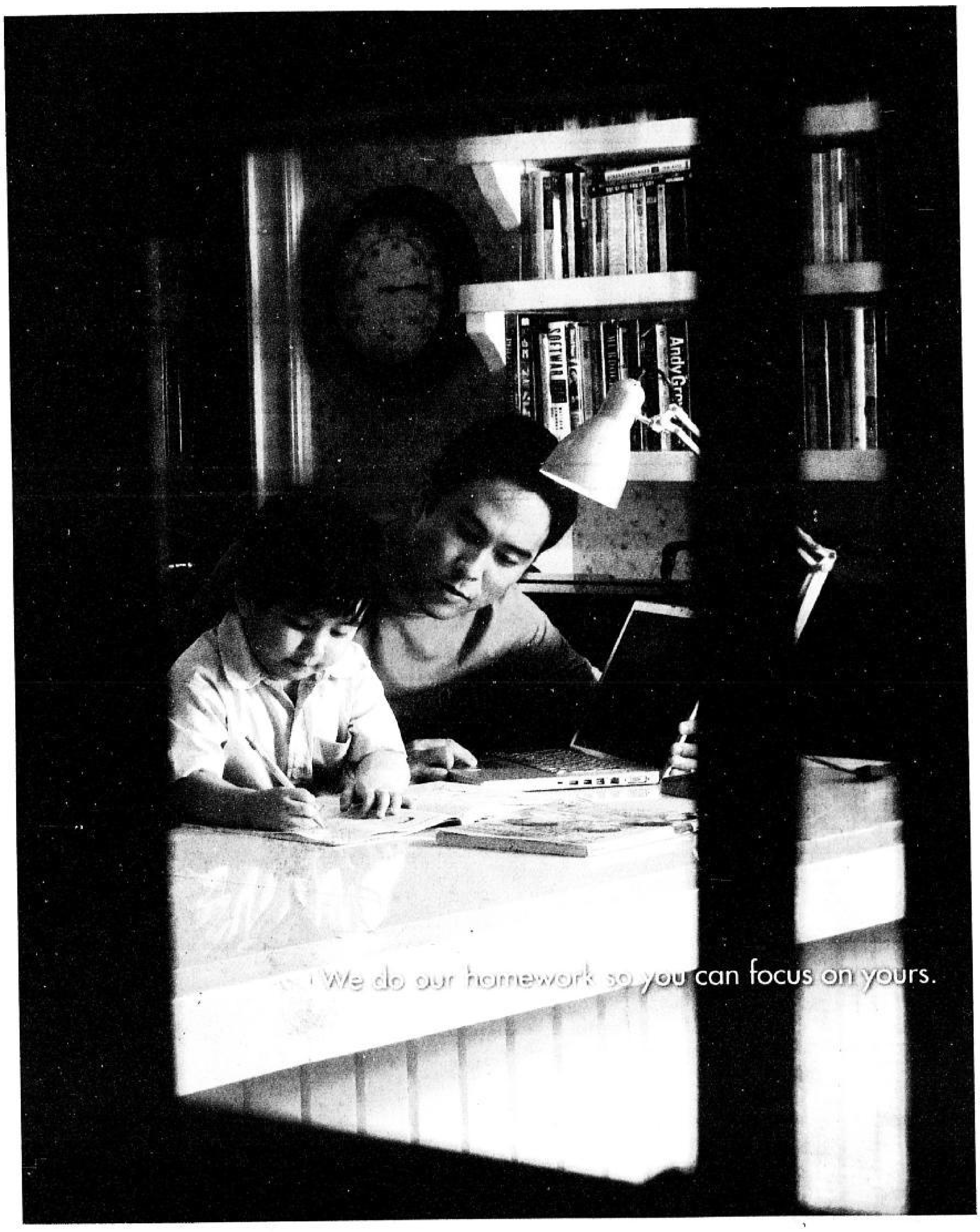
Jambi
Thursday
6:59 local time
(Wed 2349 GMT)
7.8 magnitude
Sipura
Pagai Utara
Pagai Selatan
SUMATRA
Bengkulu
Wednesday
18:10 local time
(1110 GMT)
8.4 magnitude
Aftershocks of 4.9 to 6.0 magnitude strength
160 km
Enggano
INDONESIA
JAKARTA
Four separate tsunami warnings issued
Rescue teams speed to area Thursday
Phone lines, electricity down
Thousands spend night outdoors in fear of building collapse

AFP 130907 Source: USGS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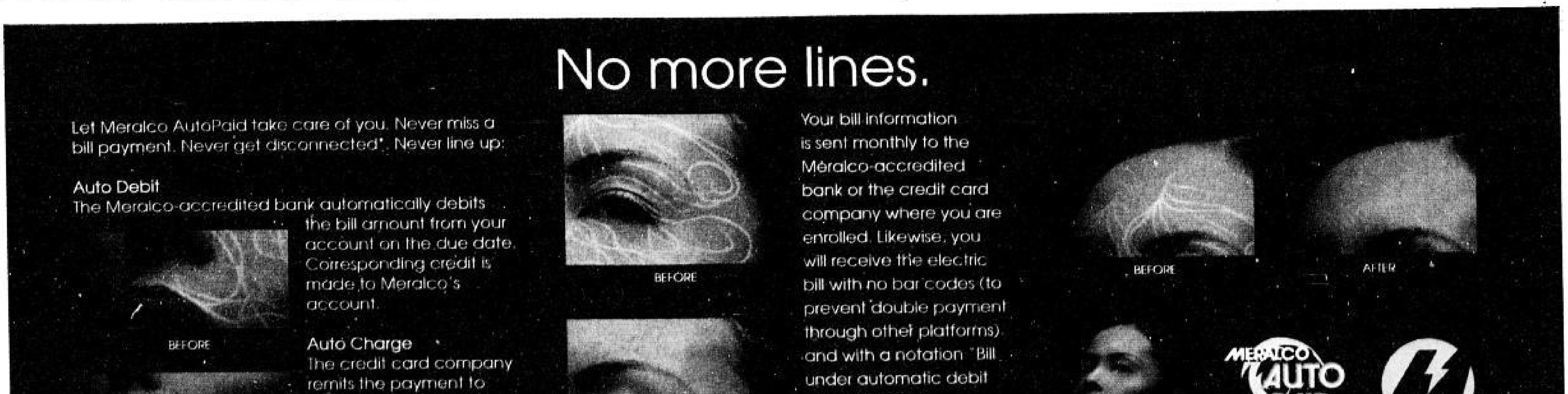
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WHAT'S INSIDE
Pretty Fil-Canadian sprinter sparkles /A31

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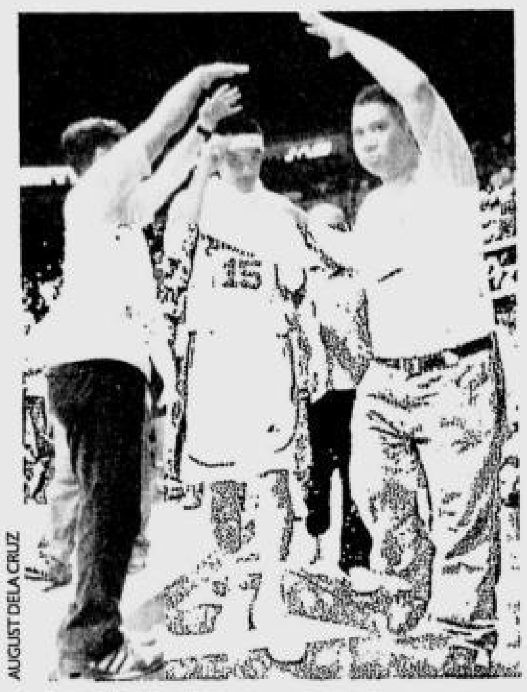
UE completes 14-0, but barely



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

"THIS player has no place on the hardcourt," says a UAAP official of La Salle's Brian Ilad (15), who nearly triggered a melee by punching UE's Mark Fampulme on the head following a hard foul slapped on Rico Maierhofer.

Warriors trim Archers in OT

By Jasmine W. Payo

LA SALLE CAME WITHIN 3.5 SECONDS of ending the streak but University of the East was destined to remain untouchable.

After giving UE a new lease on life in overtime, the Warriors dominated the Green Archers in the five-minute extension to complete a rare 14-0 sweep of the UAAP basketball eliminations with a 92-84 win at the Araneta Coliseum yesterday.

The unbeaten run assured UE of the first championship slot under a rule which was imposed after University of Santo Tomas automatically won the crown with a similar 14-game sweep in 1993.

"It was really for us," said coach Dindo Pumaren, clearly relieved after the Warriors teetered on the brink of their first loss of the season.

JV Casio could have won it for La Salle in regulation, but nerves got in the way as the streaky shooter missed his first free throw with 3.5 seconds left in the fourth period.

Casio nailed his second charity that knotted the contest at 77 and forced the extra period.

"Of all people who would miss, it was Casio," said Pumaren.

And of all the UE players, it was Hans Thiele who proved the difference for the Warriors.

"Thiele made the key baskets—he was the big difference," said Pumaren of the lanky forward, who came off the bench to finish with a career-high 16 points and 16 rebounds.

La Salle dropped to third at 9-5, but will remain in contention for the twice-to-beat semifinal bonus if Ateneo loses its game against the

UE/ A30

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	14	0
Ateneo	9	4
La Salle	9	5
UST	8	6
Far Eastern	8	6
National	5	8
Adamson	1	12
UP	0	13

GAMES SATURDAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—UP vs Adamson
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs National U

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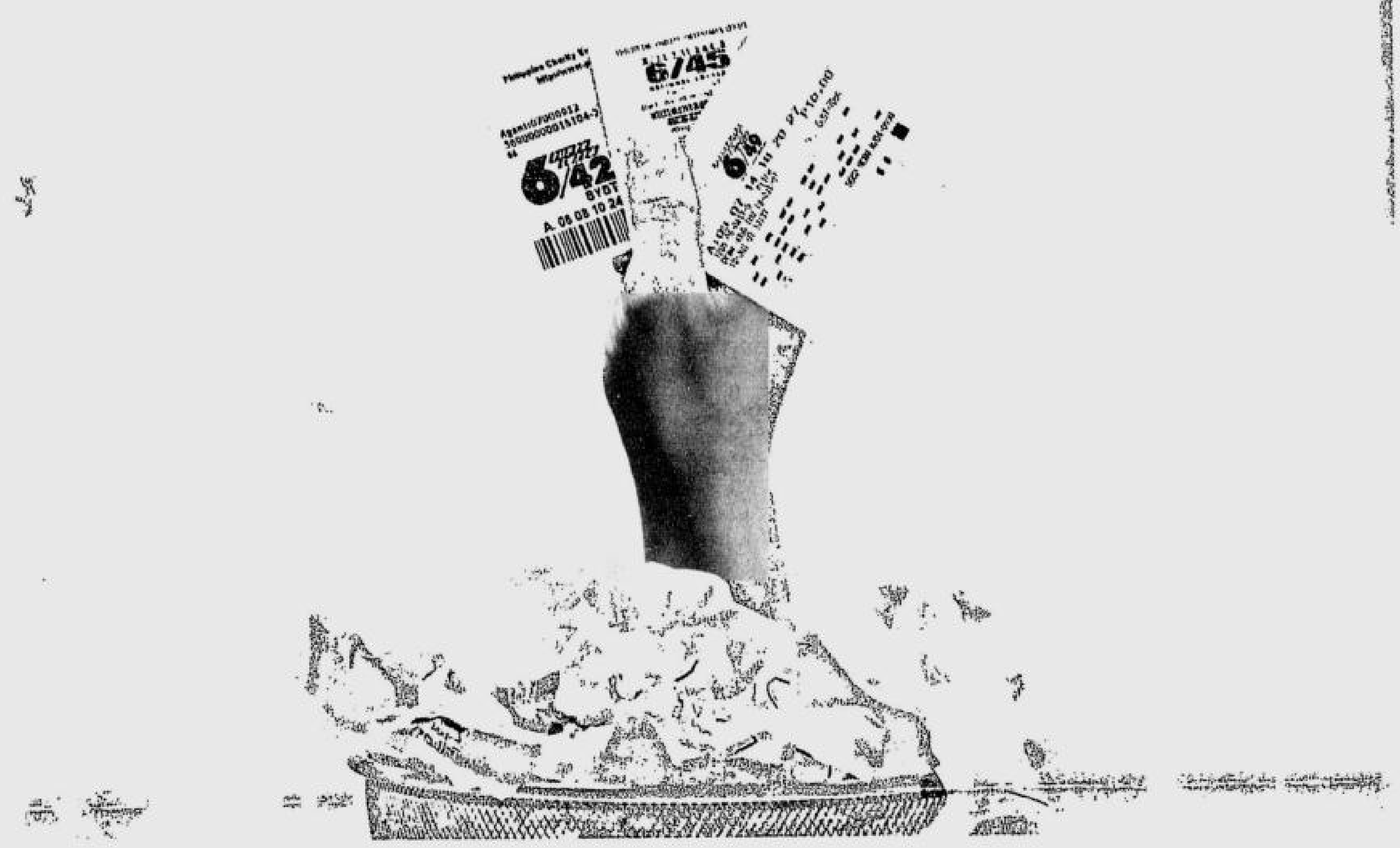

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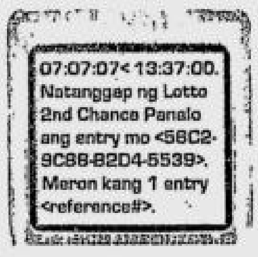

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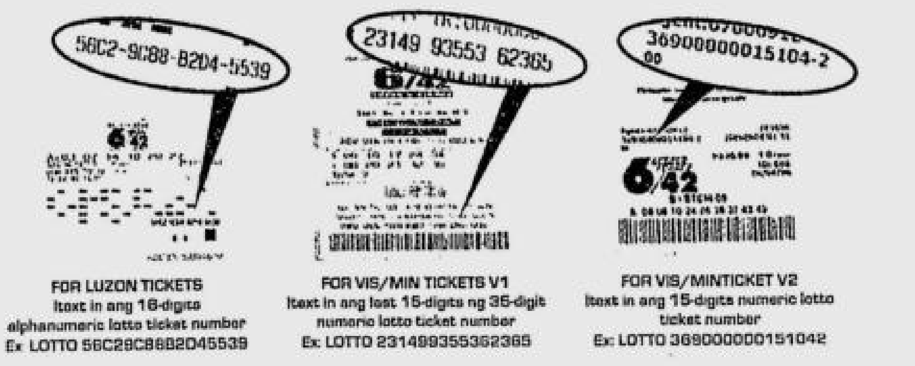

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FOR VIS/MIN TICKETS V1
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   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers.
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   15-digit lotto ticket is the last 15 numbers in the 35 digit ticket number.
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   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone
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   Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>.
   Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
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Fernandos wind up 1-2 in RP Amateur qualifying

By Musong R. Castillo

ILOILO CITY—ANTHONY FERNANDO FIRED A an unexciting two-over-par 72 yesterday but still topped the classification phase of the Philippine Amateur men's golf championship at the Iloilo Golf and Country Club here.

The 24-year-old Fernando kept his form despite a brief suspension of play because of rain, shooting a level 34 coming home to earn what is supposedly the lightest assignment—based on the rankings—in the first round of match play that starts today.

He finished the 36-hole classification with a 140 total and will face veteran Boyet Saragoza, the 32nd man to advance after nipping two others in a playoff, in one of 16 18-hole duels today at the oldest course in the Far East.

Anthony's cousin and RP teammate Mark Fernando floundered with a 75 but still salvaged second spot at 143. He clashes with club bet and No. 31 qualifier Oscar Arenas in the first round.

There were really no surprises in the classification, with the other four members of the National team easily advancing.

Michael Bibat, bronze medalist in the Doha Asian Games last year, finished at 144 after a 75 to forge a first round clash with veteran Dave Hernandez.

Jonel Ababa qualified as the seventh seed after a 74 for 147, a stroke ahead of Jay Bayron, the defending champion who shot a 76. Ferdinand Aunzo will enter match play as the 17th seed after a 75-151.

Paul Echavez, the 17-year-old product of the National Caddies' Open who shared the first-round lead with the Fernandos with a 68, ballooned to a 79 but still qualified as the 11th seed with a 147 tally.

The other notable qualifiers were Joseph Labajo, Erwin Vinluan, Joey Huerva, Mario Labajo, Rufino Bayron, Jae Yang and last year's losing finalist Tonton Asistio (77-149).

In the ladies division, veteran internationalist Anya Tanpinco topped the classification stage despite a 79 for 153, with Sunshine Baraquiel taking second spot, two strokes back after a 76.

Louise Manalo took third at 156 after a 75, while defending champion Carmelette Villaroman shot an 81 for 159 and fourth place.

The men's rankings: 1. A. Fernando (72-140); 2. M. Fernando (75-143); 3. M. Bibat (75-144); 4. J. Labajo (73-145); 5. E. Vinluan (74-145); 6. J. Huerva (74-146); 7. M. Labajo (71-147); 8. J. Ababa (74--147); 9. R. Bayron (74-147); 10. J. Bayron (76-147); 11. P. Echavez (79-147); 12. J. Yang (72-148); 13. T. Asistio (77-149); 14. B. Reyes (73-150); 15. J. Visinica (73--150); 16. Z. Gialon (74-151); 17. F. Aunzo (75-151); 18. J. Lam (75-151); 19. R. Menor (77-151); 20. G. Bondoc (78-151); 21. J. Laput (75-152); 22. C. Dulay (78-153); 23. M. Rivera (79-154); 24. D. Sinfuego (82-154); 25. M. Alejandro (78-155); 26. M. Yee (78-155); 27. D. Becierra (82-155); 28. A. Enjino (78-156); 29. D. Solinap (77-156); 30. D. Hernandez (78-156); 31. O. Arenas (80-156); 32. B. Saragoza (77-157).

4 UST jins gain finals

EMANUEL ALIVIO JR. AND MARLON Avenito dominated their respective opponents to lead two other University of Santo Tomas bets into the senior division finals of the 2007 Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati yesterday.

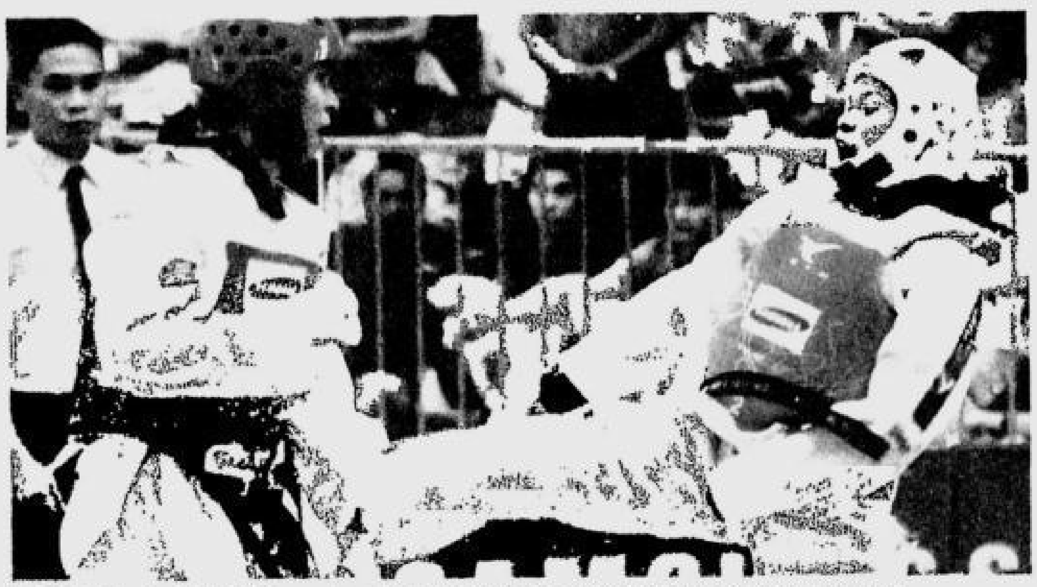
The classy Alivio came out unscathed against Far Eastern University's Kim John Borlongan, 4-0, in the bantamweight class while Avenito ripped Dennis Pisarro Jr., 7-3, to advance against fellow UST bet Paolo Angelo Ong in the light welter category.

Ong and another UST bet, Jose Anthony Soriano, gained a crack at gold medals without unleashing a kick, winning by default over injured Philippine team mainstay Ernesto Mendoza and Cyrus Anthony Tolosa, respectively.

Alivio will battle San Beda's Jose Emmanuel Enriquez, who edged EJAI's Arturo Lalican Jr. in sudden death after forging a 3-3 tie in the 58-62 kg category, for the gold.

Soriano gained a crack at the middle/heavy gold against St. Benilde's Clarence Virtudazo, who nipped UST's Arvin Antonio, 5-4.

In women's play, Sugar Catalan nipped Mary Jane Salcedo of Baguio, 1-0, to set up a clash for the flyweight gold with UP Diliman teammate Maria Abigail Rustria, who toppled UST's Caryl Pilongo, 2-1.



JADE Zafra (left) of UST parries a kick by UP's Sheena Mae Perlas in the women's bantamweight semifinals. Perlas won, 6-3.

ROMY HOMILLADA

St. Benilde's Gerrielyn Aranzanso won via superiority over FEU's Princess Joy Mateo to gain the final against UP Diliman's Edhlie Arellano, who routed Davao's Cassandra Villaruz, 4-0, in the finweight division.

Action in the juniors division starts today .

St. Benilde's Edison Bagaipo beat Raffy Futolan of Defenders, 2-1, to arrange a showdown for the finweight gold against Raymond Villada who downed EJAI's Ryan Tibay, 11-9.

Dennis Resaba of La Salle bested St. Benilde's Allan Obenza, 5-1, to reach the featherweight final against RP team member Manuel Rivero, who dumped Loreto Velasquez, 10-3.

Ernesto de Guzman beat teammate Jeffrey Ysmael, 5-4, to advance to the flyweight final against San Beda's Carlos Jose Padilla, who scored a walkover win over Emmar Progelia.

Belasco perks turn off Welcoat Dragons

By Musong R. Castillo

NOT EVEN A CONTRACT OFFER coated well, to use a pun, could make Nic Belasco stay at Welcoat Paints.

Negotiations with the player whom Welcoat said would be the team's spiritual leader bogged down yesterday after Belasco reportedly asked for "unreasonable perks" to go with an offer that was already the maximum allowed by Philippine Basketball Association.

Now, Welcoat is looking for trades to unload Belasco, whom the Dragons acquired early last month by dealing away Jun-Jun Cabatu to the Alaska Aces.

Welcoat had offered Belasco a two-year contract worth P350,000 a month—the biggest allowed by the PBA.

And one of those trade moves —with Ginebra—has also gone down the drain after the Gin Kings, who expressed interest in the 33-year-old Belasco, refused to part with rookie point guard Macky Escalona and another player.

A Welcoat source said that efforts to sign Belasco hit a wall after the player asked that he be treated in the United States if he falls ill or becomes injured.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said that Belasco also asked for four round-trip tickets to the US "for his companions."

Meanwhile, Purefoods remained unbeaten in the PBA preseason tournament after dismantling Air21, 130-124, yesterday at the PUP gym.

The scores:

PUREFOODS 130—J. Yap 29, Raymundo 21, Lanete 20, R. Yap 20, Larong 12, Sanz 8, Pingris 7. Adducul 7, Salvador 4, Evangelista 2.

AIR21 124—Santos 36, Arboleda 23, Canaleta 15, Cruz 12, De Ocampo 12, Kramer 7, Intal 6, Masbang 5, Dimaunahan 4, Sotto 2.

Quarters: 34-24, 68-57, 101-95, 130-124

Del Rosario seeks 4th title

PAUL DEL ROSARIO TRIES TO wrap up his fourth Rider of the Year title today when the 2007 Petron-JSAP National Jet Ski Series stages its final leg at the Waterfront Beach of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Barring a mishap or engine problem, Del Rosario is expected to score a third straight sweep in the Expert Runabout 1200 Open and the Stand-Up class crown.

BJ Ang, who trails Del Rosario by only 12 points, will be the chief challenger in the Expert Runabout which will also feature Mike Mangio, Jeremy Chua and Dong Arcilla, president of the Jet Sports Association of the Philippines.

Out to stop Del Rosario in the Stand-Up class are Peter Cruz, Yanik Elnar and Canadian Brian expatriate Poturnak.

Both Del Rosario and Ang are using the races as tune-up for their stint in the World Jet Ski Finals set Oct. 12-14 in Lake Havasu, Arizona.

SMC, Smart to boost Olympic gold drive

By Marc Anthony Reyes

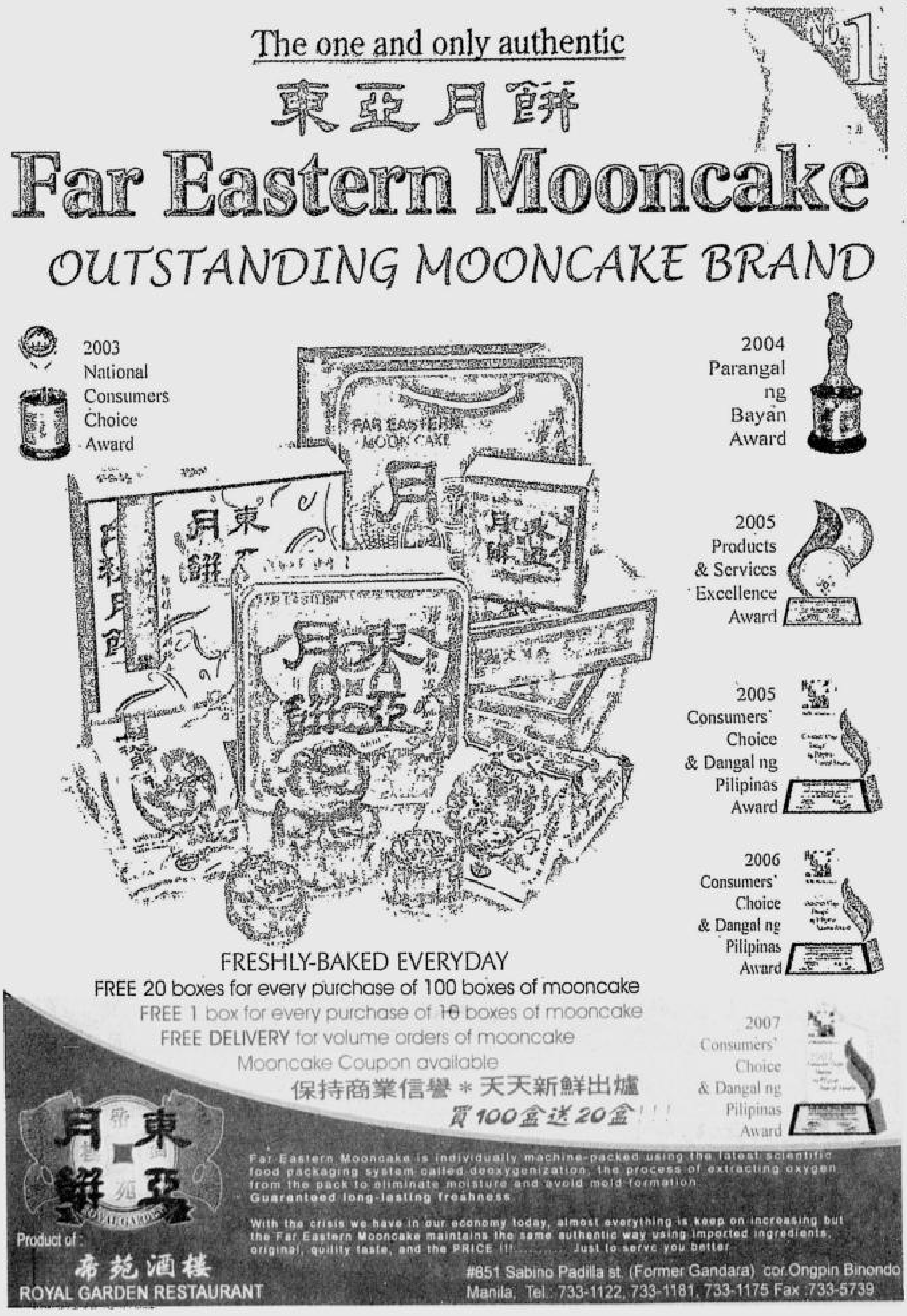
WITHOUT MUCH FANFARE, THE husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo has secured the support of two of the country's top corporations for the first Olympic gold medal drive in Beijing next year.

Mike Arroyo announced that San Miguel Corp. and Smart/PLDT have agreed to help the country's quest for Olympic gold.

Reports said SMC will support boxing while the telecommunications giant will back taekwondo.

The two events are where Filipinos have the strongest chances of winning gold in the Olympics.

"With the way both the San Miguel and the PLDT/Smart conglomerate helped us in the last SEA Games, I can surmise that they will again do the same in our quest for our very first Olympic gold medal," Arroyo was quoted as telling the Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (SCOOP) recently.



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UE completes 14-0, but . . .

From page A29

National U Bulldogs on Saturday.

Earlier, Far Eastern stalled University of Santo Tomas' semifinal bid with an 84-73 triumph to keep its own Final Four hopes alive.

A bench-clearing incident marred the UE-La Salle match after Borboran drew a hard foul from Rico Maierhofer in the first quarter.

Fampulme, exchanging heated words with several Archers, got cornered in the La Salle bench. Officials tried to break off the verbal tiff, but La Salle rookie Brian Ilad stormed from the bench and punched Fampulme on the head.

The scores:

First Game

FEU 84—Cervantes 14, Baracael 13, Sanga 12, Fernandez 10, Cawaling 9, Ramos 8, Adolfo 7, Barroca 6, Alisbo 2, Abaring 2. Cabagnot 1, Tanuan 0, Knuttel 0.

UST 73—Cruz 13, Mirza 12, Espiritu 10, Canlas 10, Taylor 7. Cuan 6. Allera 5, Ababou 5, Cortez 3, Gile 2, Dizon 0.

Quarters: 19-14, 39-30, 58-59, 84-73

Second Game

UE 92—Thiele 16, Martinez 13, Borboran 11, Arellano 11, Llagas 10, Gregorio 10, Fampulme 7, Lee 6, Espiritu 5, Lingganay 3, Bandaying 0, Cañizares 0.

LA SALLE 84—Casio 22, Tang 16, Malabes 12, Vilanueva 9, Maierhofer 9, Walsham 6, Mangahas 6, Co 4, Atkins 0, Ferdinand 0, Lee 0, Ilad 0, Cua 0.

Quarters: 22-16, 45-44, 58-62, 77-77 (reg), 92-84 (OT)

INTERVILLAGE GOLF SERIES PRESENTER

SolidGroup COO Jason Lim (right) and Videocom president and tournament organizer Vince Villafuerte formalize the entry of MyFone, SolidGroup's newest product, as presenter of the 2007 Intervillage Golf Series among Metro Manila's top villages next month.

SPORTSWATCH

70 fights up in Pasay 4-stag derby

A SPECIAL 4-STAG DERBY, WITH MORE THAN 70 encounters lined up, takes center stage starting at 5 p.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit. Host Ramon Mancenares of the PCC Association has put up a guaranteed prize of P300,000 for an entry fee of P11,000. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The long list of participants includes Battle of the Big Boys 7-stag champion Tonton Uy, Benjie Lim, Pepito Ngo, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Madlambayan Brothers and the Super Pacman group.

LGBA stag series under way

THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION 7-stag derby series gets going today at Lucky Sports Complex in Calihan, San Francisco, San Pablo City. Today's 3-stag elimination round starts at 1 p.m. with more than 80 fights lined up. Elimination rounds resume at the San Juan Coliseum on Sept. 19 and 22 while the first leg of the 4-stag championship round to determine the Breeder of the Year sizzles at Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 24 and 26, said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

Rizal breeders' event today

THE NEWLY FORMED RIZAL GAMECOCK BREEDERS Association (RGBA), made up of 50 members, will hold the Inaugural 4-Stag Derby today with more than 100 fights on tap at the Pasig Square Garden. Promoters Manny Berbano and Danny Ty said the derby is the very first stagfest at the newly reopened PSG. The RGBA will hold three stagfests to determine the RGBA Stag Breeder of the Year. Meanwhile, the annual PSG 5-Stag Derby comes off the wraps tomorrow.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—White Diamond (1), Bodman's Bounty (2), Win Lane (3)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Virginia (2), Shutter/Bullet Day (5), Rain Dancer (4), Princess of Aschen (3)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mister Cool (3), Selectee (8), Long Hitter (2), Red Storm (5), Medal's Time (1)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Mighty Mare (3), Great Honor (5), Arctic Desert (2), Rough Red (7)

Race 5—(Tri)—Shifty (2), Daddy's Girl (3), Archer/Bullish Dream (5)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bull Rock (5), Donna Messer (2), Znarf (7), Bachelor of Arts (1), Baling Ganda (8)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Kate Alex (3), Seeing Red (6), Something Silver (4), Mandalay Bay (50

Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Ocean Cookie (5), Zachy's Friend (5), At All Cost (6), Macalelon (2)

Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—When We're Flying (3), Princess Camille (2), Kalmia (9), Complexion (6), Southern Charm (8), Sophia's Magic (7)

Barrera winning and cactus as Pinoy dinner

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—The fat, shortish *paisano* behind the counter did not sound like he was making a serious offer.

"You want cactus, *quieres, señor?*" he muttered, brush moustache bristling.

A transparent plastic bag filled with greenish bits lay beside the rundown cash register.

"What do I do with cactus?" I asked.

"*Para comida,*" he replied.

"Cactus for eating?"

"Si, sure *señor*, it's very good like broccoli," he explained smiling.

Good God. But how do you cook it?

"Simple, *no hay problema*, just boil it—healthy, tastes good."

* * *

This exchange happened inside a small Mexican fresh food mart off very busy Santa Monica Boulevard, a couple of blocks from the Wild Card gym.

I shook my head, begged his pardon, picked up three potatoes and two stems of broccoli which, I told the curious seller, would later boil splendidly with a can of *carne norte* into a makeshift meat-veggie stew dinner.

That's it. Cactus, we had been told before, goes great into the making of a splendid tequila—perfectly Mexican.

But there's no way a hard-trying Mexican, well-meaning as he could be, would ram cactus down the throat of this straying Pinoy to whom the spiky plant remains a towering background for dear old Tonto and Lone Ranger as the immortal duo race down memory lane, through the dried-up wilds of happy, old, George Bush-free America.

Cactus? Sorry, better luck next time, *señor*.

* * *

By the way, that food mart incident happened only yesterday, out here in hot, baking Los Angeles.

The other day at Wild Card, a middle-aged fixture, a leathery Mex with a drum of a beer belly, started mumbling something interesting about the Marco Antonio Barrera-Manny Pacquiao rematch.

"Just tell them it's the trainer of Hector Velasquez who said it," he declared with patriotic fervor.

The anxious fellow declared, matter-of-factly, that there would be a third Pacquiao-Barrera fight!

"It will be called the Moment of Truth, better believe me," he said.

Well, I no longer bothered to ask his full name, he did not ask mine, although he obviously smelled I was a Pacquiao backer.

Pacquiao stopped Velasquez at the Staples Center here a little over two years ago in a tune-up for the Pacman's second battle against Erik Morales, who saw action —and lost on points—in the same card.

* * *

To repeat: this Mex fixture at Wild Card sincerely felt a Barrera-Pacquiao Trilogy is in the works.

"Because there's no other way they could make big money," he stated without flinching.

"You know, we were winning, we were ahead on points after two rounds against Pacquiao, but Velasquez disobeyed, he slugged it out," he said.

Anyway, as though he owned the exclusive formula on how to offset and upset Pacquiao, the trainer said Barrera should be expected to avoid an outright slug-out, dance, use the ring, do the rope-a-dope if possible.

In basketball, that would be equal to playing a half-court game, in order to avoid being swept under the swirl of the breathless fastbreak.

Not a bad proposal, although there was nothing new in it.

* * *

Meanwhile, there came reports yesterday that Team Barrera has decided to take in the undefeated one-punch mangler Edwin Valero, reigning WBA 130-lb. champ, to help hone up the Baby-Faced Assassin versus Pacquiao, a whirlwind of a slasher.

Good. But the Barrera camp must also be reminded they could be facing an even bigger problem here.

You see, it was Barrera himself who had admitted that, more than power, it was Pacquiao's fabulous speed and quickness which ultimately plastered him in their first fight in November 2003.

The message here is for Barrera to go seek someone who could push him harder, and improve his speed.

"Valero? If he hits you today, he throws the next punch tomorrow," one trainer, a tested Pacquiao deputy, quipped at the nearby Nat's Thai Food Restaurant here.

Needless to say, Valero could be truly useful to Barrera only if a cactus stew finally tastes like perfect dinner for the homesick, adobo-happy Pinoy.

OLYMPIC FEST

Fair Fil-Canadian sprinter sparkles

By June Navarro

RAFFY LERMA

SPRINT MARVEL: Jami Dawn Henares

ILOILO CITY—MANY have tried but no one has come close to approximating the promise shown by former Asian sprint queen Lydia De Vega-Mercado at an early age.

But track officials here believe they have found a De Vega-Mercado-in-the-making after a Filipino-Canadian from Bacolod powered to two impressive wins in the second day of the Philippine Olympic Festival Visayas Qualifying leg.

Jami Dawn Henares, 15, overwhelmed the field in the 400 meters, clocking a minute and .01 second, then snared another gold in the 200m with a time of 27.2 that caught the attention of Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association technical personnel.

The honor student at Destiny Christian Academy could have been the first triple gold medalist of the games had the charming 5-foot-6 lass ruled the 100m dash the other day.

"I didn't start well because I wasn't listening to the starting gun," said Henares, who lost to Jenelyn Progio of Capiz by a hairline but avenged that defeat in the 200m.

Progio timed 13.435 against Henares' (13.436) in the 100m.

After ruling the century dash, the 18-year-old Progio went on to bag two more golds in the 100m and 400m hurdles.

"I train her along with La Salle's (Bacolod) track and field men's varsity team," said Frankie Echavarria, Henares' personal coach.

In all, Capiz took five more golds in athletics.

Joannu Fegarido ruled the boys' 200m dash, Sharjon Delgado dominated the boys' 400m hurdles, Hanny Jean Delfin won the 10,000m and Joan Grace Fenitro prevailed in the girls' shotput for Capiz.

Iloilo struck hard in taekwondo, collecting a total of 19 gold medals, and kept its head high in football, coming back from two goals down to force a 2-2 draw against Cebu.

Christian John Gersanib (finweight), Kevin Cabariban (welter), Keva Labrador (fin), Ryka Bernardo (fly), Ivanna Marie Mabunay (welter), Mario Nepomuceno (bantam), Jon Adjijil (feather), Gabriel Arnigo (fin), Carole Bullon (fin), Rieth Pangham (bantam), Lyn June Salibius (light) scored wins in the juniors division.

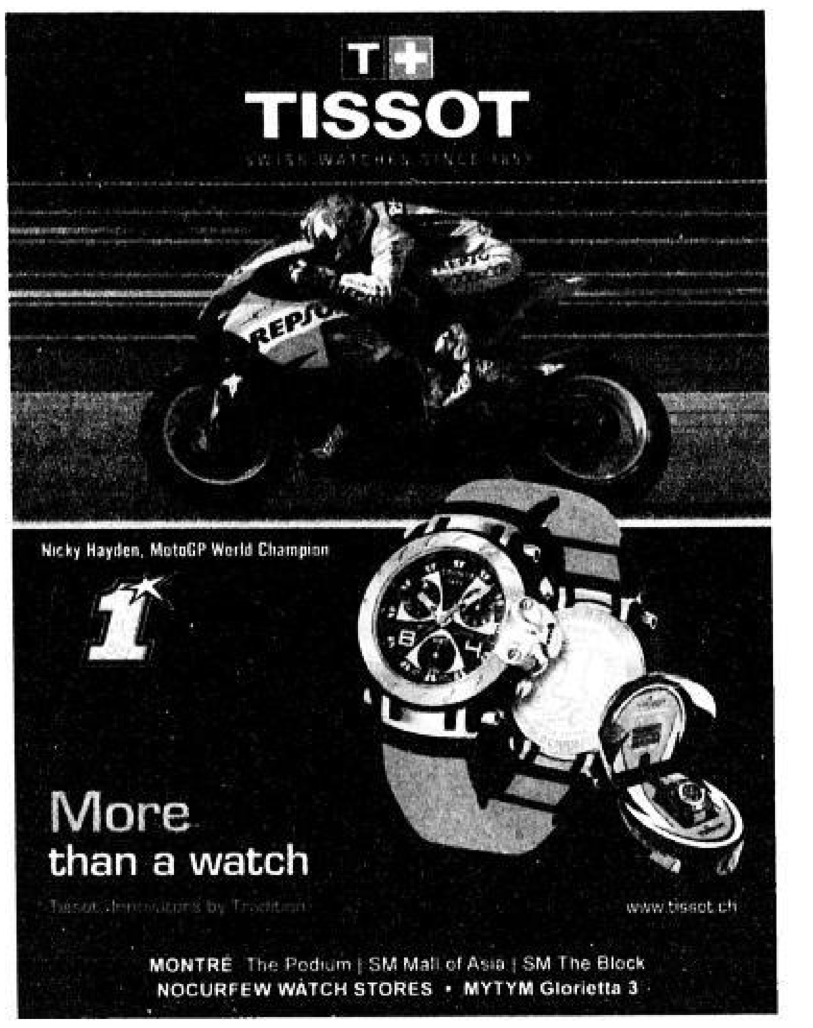
Providing the gold for Iloilo in the grade school division were Louvett Uy Deong, Ron Alde Dedoroy, Lester Barcenilla, Nicole Vidallon and Ayanna Benita Galotera.

Pucay opens with rare 66

GUANGZHOU—MARS PUCAY flashed his strongest start in 12 years on the Asian Tour yesterday, shooting a five-under 66 to trail Korea's Lee Sung by two shots after the first round of the inaugural Midea China Classic.

Ranked a lowly 121 in the UBS Order of Merit, the Filipino surprised even himself by birdieing five of the first eight holes en route to a 31-35 trip at the par-71 Royal Orchid International Golf Club.

Angelo Que and Jerome Delariarte fired 69s but Juvic Pagunsan and Tony Lascuña carded 72s, Gerald Rosales and Cookie La'O had 73s while Antonio Murakami shot a 76.



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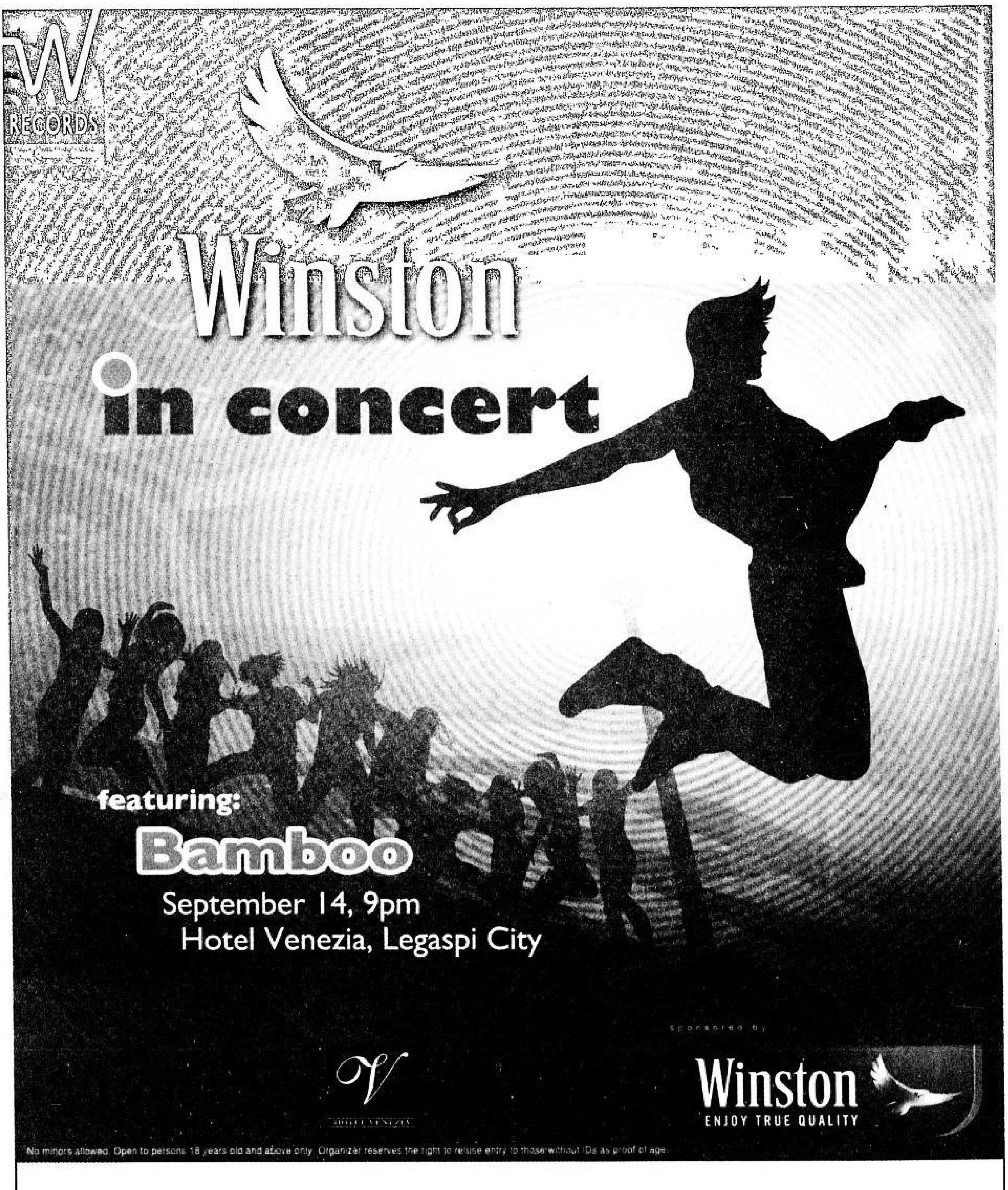

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SPORTS

Federer-Sampras exhibition match

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—TICKETS GO ON SALE THIS WEEK for a Nov. 22 exhibition match between top ranked Roger Federer and tennis great Pete Sampras. Sampras has 14 Grand Slam titles while Federer has 12, including last weekend's US Open. *AP*

Tiger, Phil start battle

ATLANTA—IT STARTED IN HAWAII with too much hype and an equal dose of skepticism.

Eight months later, the FedEx Cup ends at East Lake Country Club with no need for promotion and no big surprises.

Tiger Woods arrived at the US Tour Championship on Wednesday with the best chance to capture the inaugural FedEx Cup and a $10 million (euro7.2 million) deposit into a retirement fund, and he simply nodded his head when asked if that amount of money still meant something to a guy who brings in close to $100 million (euro72 million) a year.

Phil Mickelson is No. 3 in the standings after skipping last week. He will have to win the US Tour Championship for any chance of capturing the cup, although he beat the world's No. 1 player the last time they got together outside Boston.

In the middle is Steve Stricker.

It all starts to unfold Thursday when the top 30 players tee off at East Lake, where trophies will be awarded for the winner of the Tour Championship and the FedEx Cup, and the biggest suspense is whether they will go to the same player.

Rory Sabbatini (No. 4) and K.J. Choi (No. 5) have a mathematical chance of winning the FedEx Cup.

The only damper on this parade is East Lake. *AP*

Germany, Lithuania beat foes

MADRID—GERMANY overcame, Italy 67-58, to take the last quarterfinal slot and send its rivals home from the European Championship on Wednesday.

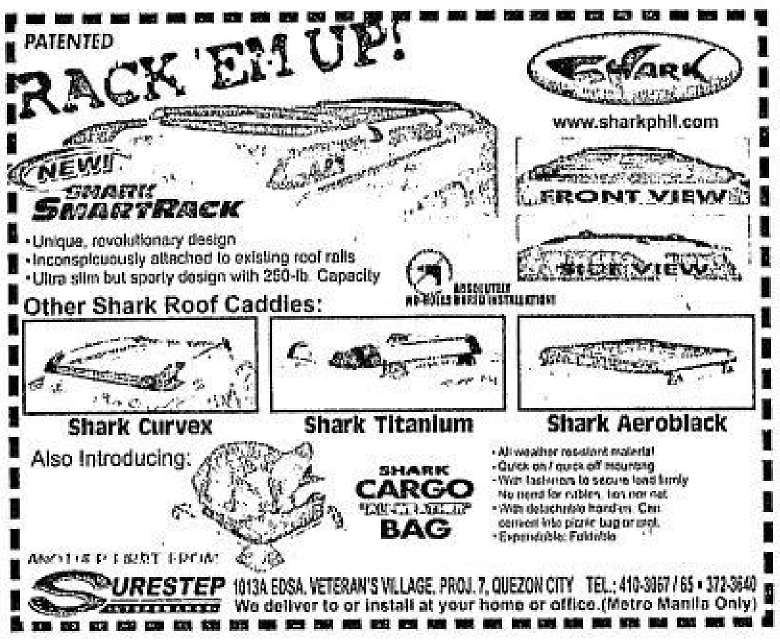
The 2005 silver medalists put in a vastly improved performance from their last outing, when they were humiliated, 77-47, by Slovenia, with a strong all-round display.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds but this time was helped by team mates Johannes Herber with 15 points and six rebounds and Steffen Hamann with 10 points.

Germany's prize for finishing fourth in Group F is a quarterfinal showdown with favorite and world champion Spain.

The other quarterfinal pairings were decided after the late game when Lithuania powered past Slovenia, 80-61, to take top spot in Group F.

Lithuania, the only unbeaten team left in the Euros, will face Croatia, holders Greece take on Slovenia and Russia play France. *Reuters*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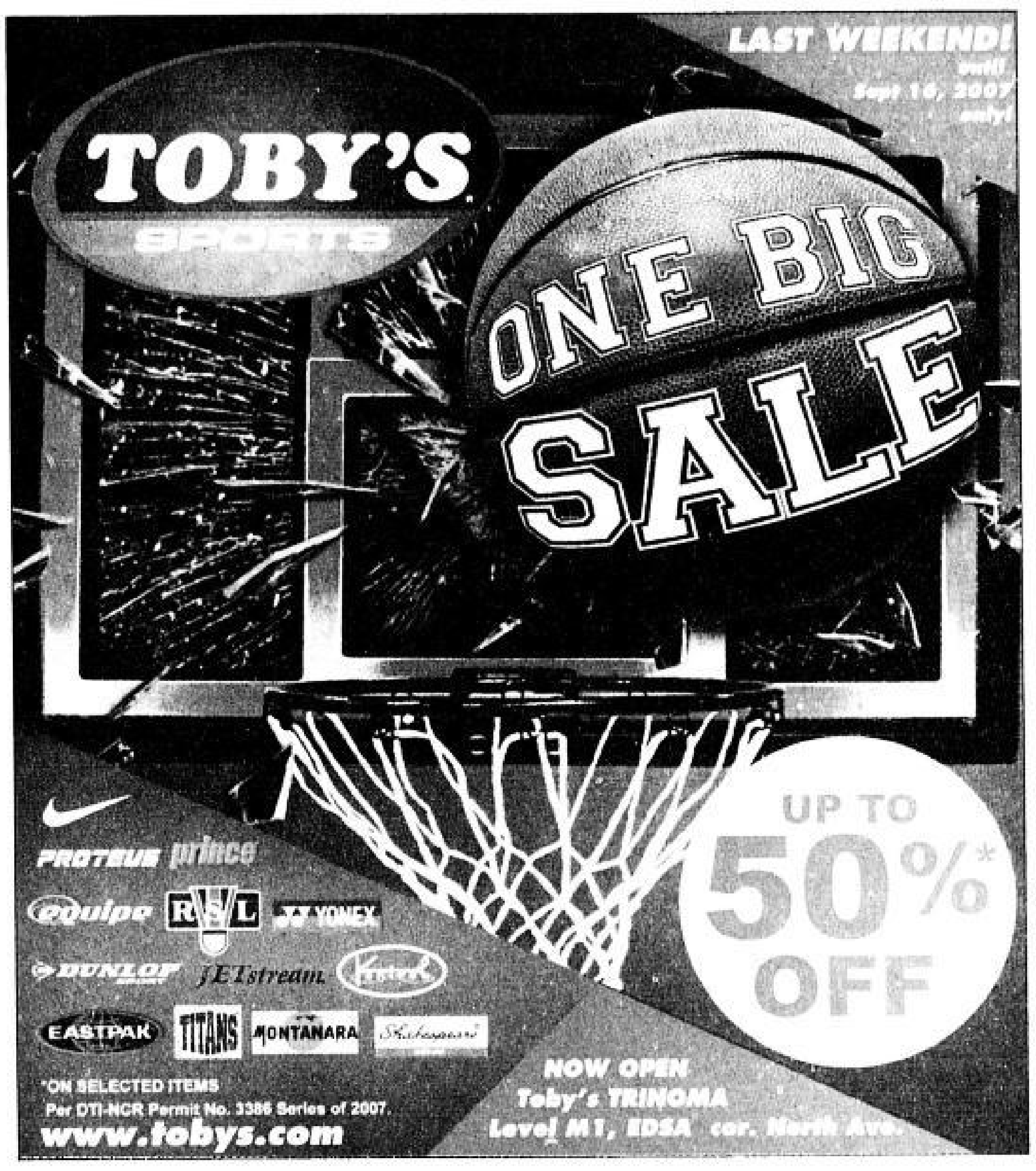

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$246M in 'hot money' fled RP in Aug.

Hefti is new BIR chief

By Michelle V. Remo

HEFTI

MALACAÑANG HAS APPOINTed Lilian Hefti as commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue after the tax collecting agency met its revenue goals in July and August.

Hefti, who had served as officer in charge of the agency since July 2 following the sacking of Jose Mario Buñag, will take her oath as internal revenue commissioner today at the BIR main office in Quezon City.

She was tasked to head the government's biggest revenue-collecting agency after an anemic tax collection in the first half. The poor collection record was blamed for the government's breaching of the budget deficit ceiling for the first six months.

In July, the BIR surpassed its P57.8-billion target for the month with collections amounting to P58.7 billion.

This brought the BIR's total collection for the first seven months of the year to P393.4 billion. Despite the recovery in July, the cumulative collection was still short of the P431.1-billion goal for the first seven months.

The BIR has been tasked to im-

HEFTI/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE

▨ **Cebu Pacific** flies to China /B3
▨ **CTPL system seen** to work just fine /B7
▨ **Philip Morris bucks** cut in tax on Pall Mall /B8

Peso continues to strengthen, closes at 46.47 to a dollar

By Doris C. Dumlao

SOME $246.44 MILLION IN NET FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN stocks and bonds fled the Philippines in August due to global market jitters triggered by the worsening US housing slump, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

This was the first month this year that the country posted a net outflow of foreign portfolio investments, also called "hot money" due to their volatile nature. It was a turnaround from the $115.94 million in net inflow in the same month last year.

Total portfolio outflow of $1.64 billion exceeded the inflow of $1.39 billion during the month, which was marked by renewed global financial volatility and aversion to assets from emerging markets like the Philippines.

Meantime, the peso yesterday sustained its gains against the dollar as global investors sold down the greenback on prospects of an interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve next week. The local currency, which also broke free from a domestic political overhang related to the landmark plunder case against ousted President Joseph Estrada, closed stronger at 46.47 from Wednesday's 46.71:$1.

"There was a relief rally for ROPs (for-

$246M/ B7

SMC eyes 10 ethanol plants

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID TO ENTER THE COUNtry's energy sector, listed conglomerate San Miguel Corp. is looking at putting up 10 ethanol plants all over the country in the coming years.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, author of the Biofuels Act of 2006, said San Miguel was now conducting a feasibility study on the projects.

The ethanol plants, he said, would entail an investment of between P16 billion and P20 billion.

"They're still studying it right now. They haven't submitted any formal proposals yet to the (Department of Energy), but they're looking at it seriously," he told reporters yesterday.

"My challenge to them is to take the project out of the drawing board and actually put the plans up. If they can't make it to the mandated 5-percent ethanol blend by next year, they should already be producing in time for the implementation of the 10-percent blend in

SMC EYES/ B2

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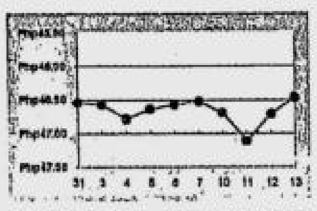

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.47 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 13, 2007

Shares close lower on record oil price

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.6-PERCENT lower yesterday on cautious trade after oil prices briefly went beyond $80 a barrel and struck record levels, dealers said.

They said investors also failed to sustain the momentum picked up after the market cheered the conviction for plunder of deposed leader Joseph Estrada on Wednesday, who was also sentenced to life in jail.

The composite index fell 18.38 points to 3,289.22, its weakest level for the day. It hit a high of 3,325.61 earlier in the session. A total of 4.3 billion shares worth P5.5 billion.

There were 59 decliners and 38 advancers, while 59 stocks were flat.

Investors were gauging public reaction to the Estrada verdict while waiting for fresh cues from overseas markets ahead

SHARES/ B5

BPI Equity Fund posts Growth

Investors are on full alert with regard the Philippine Stock Market as they continue to wait for leads coming from the US market. The local bourse now provides astute investors with a window to enter the stock market at very attractive prices. This is the reason why equity funds now are an investor's favorite especially for those intending to achieve capital growth over the long-term.

Todate, the BPI Equity Fund is one of the best performing equity unit investment trust funds among the twelve funds available in the market today. As of 12 September 2007, it provided investors with an absolute yield of 12.09% year-to-date or 40.10% for the past one year. Moveover, its net asset value remakably grew by over 500% over the December 2006 year-end level. Despite being an aggressive fund, BPI Equity Fund continue to mirror its fund manager's renowned prudence through careful selection of issues and timing of trades.

With the robust performance of the local economy, further consolidation in the market should provide buying opportunities to the sophisticated investor. The local market remains to be undervalued as it continues to trade below the price-earnings ratio of its regional peers, thereby providing a large upside potential.

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SMC eyes 10 . . .

From page B1

2011," he added.

He said the problem with many investors was the lack of follow-through—always having good plans but not pushing through with them.

Before the passage of the Biofuels Law, he said that a number of investors had approached him, asking him to have the law passed as soon as possible.

"But when the law finally did pass, they were nowhere to be found. Where are they now? They should put their money where their mouths are," he said.

He said San Miguel should push through with its plans to go into ethanol production, the same with other investors who had earlier expressed interest in entering the industry.

"We need at least 17 plants to meet the demand for a 10-percent ethanol blend by 2011. The demand by next year is only at 300 million liters a year, but this will go up to 600 million liters a year by 2011. We really have to start now," he said.

Under the Biofuels Law, gasoline should have at least a 5-percent ethanol blend within two years of the law's effectivity. The mandated blend will rise to at least 10 percent for ethanol after four years.

Apart from plans to put up ethanol plants, San Miguel is preparing to foray into the energy sector by submitting to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. an expression of interest to participate in the bidding for the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession in December.

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Revocation of registration

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

FOR BIG-TICKET COMMERCIAL PROJECTS, like condominiums, golf courses and resort facilities, the name of the game is effective pre-selling of participation or membership shares.

Good business sense requires that sufficient funds are available or a credit line from a reputable financing institution is in place before groundbreaking is made on these projects.

But considering the huge start-up costs involved, the astute businessman would, if given the opportunity, prefer to use other people's money to finance their construction and operation.

The solicitation of funds from the public is often done through the sale of still-to-be-constructed condominium units, or future playing or time-sharing rights.

What is sold, in effect, is the expectation or hope that the promised benefits will come to fruition at some future date.

To prove the sale, a certificate of deposit or investment is issued to the buyer either upon full payment of the selling price or after a certain number of installment payments have been made.

The success of a pre-selling activity depends on the track record of the people behind the project and the effectiveness of the advertising medium used to attract public attention.

Securities

Under the law, securities are not allowed to be sold or offered for sale in the country unless they are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Securities are shares, participation or interests in a commercial enterprise or profit-making venture that are represented by a certificate or contract.

These include investment contracts, certificates of interest in a profit-sharing agreement, certificates of participation and membership certificates in corporations.

The documents issued by corporations to customers in the pre-sale of the projects earlier mentioned, and after their completion, are classified as securities.

The registration requirement is the means by which information about the securities being offered for sale can be widely disseminated to the public.

The issuer of the securities has to state the essential details about the project, e.g., estimated cost, planned facilities, scheduled date of completion, that can help an interested buyer decide whether or not to buy the securities.

When this information requirement is satisfactorily met, the SEC gives clearance to the issuer to offer its securities to the public.

Compliance

The fact that the SEC has given the go-ahead to sell the securities should not, however, be interpreted as an endorsement of the underlying project or assurance that the issuer will be able to live up to its promises.

The clearance simply means that the issuer has met the minimum criteria for a securities offering and that it has disclosed all the facts and figures needed for a prospective buyer to make an educated judgment on the securities.

But like any business venture, there is no guarantee that the project would succeed as planned. The construction schedule may suffer delay or the work is stopped because of right-of-way problems or shortage of funds.

Upon the complaint of a securities holder or based on the issuer's filings with the SEC, the latter may look into the issuer's handling of the securities sale.

If those glitches are, say, traceable to fraudulent transactions, like unauthorized diversion of funds, or were already known to the issuer but were deliberately omitted from the registration statement, the SEC may, after notice and hearing, cancel the registration of the securities and stop their further sale.

Unpleasant the consequences of a revocation may be to the issuer, the action is necessary in order to protect the public from questionable or unreliable securities

Continuing duty

The revocation of the registration does not mean an issuer is already excused from complying with its reportorial obligations to the SEC in regard to the securities and other related activities.

If it were, it would be like rewarding somebody for violation of the rules and regulations it had earlier promised to follow.

Thus, last month, the SEC adopted Resolution No. 274, which states that "corporations whose registration of securities and permit to sell securities to the public have been revoked for violation of the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules shall continue to be covered by the applicable regulations and reportorial requirements for listed, registered or public companies."

Through the reports submitted by these corporations, the SEC can monitor the movement of their securities to prevent their manipulation and, when called for, take the proper action to protect the interests of the public.

But these oversight activities should not lull the public into a false sense of security in the purchase of securities offered by local and foreign companies.

It is advisable to look beyond the slick advertisement and glowing endorsements. Check the registration of the securities with the SEC. If it is registered, request from the issuer a copy of the prospectus it submitted in support of its application.

There is no harm in seeking advice from people in the know in case you cannot understand the contents of the prospectus. Weigh the pros and cons of investing in the offered securities. Remember, you worked hard for your money.

(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph>.)

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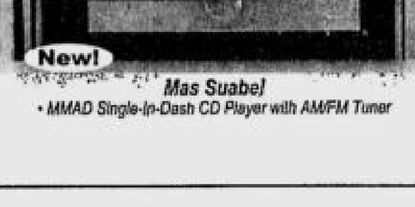
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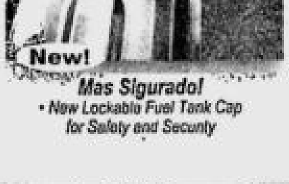
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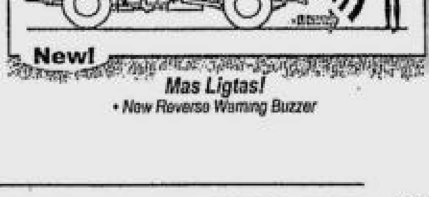
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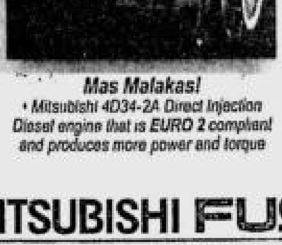
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FE 519 4-Wheeler	820,000	154,000	58,250	39,868	31,186	22,224	17,785	410,000	35,527	24,316	19,025	13,558	10,850
FE 639 6-Wheeler	941,000	172,200	66,845	45,751	35,788	25,504	20,410	470,500	40,371	27,631	21,622	15,408	12,331

All Plans Subject to Bank Approval
FE 519 4-Wheeler Optional Rear Body and Decals. Photo may vary from actual unit.
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METRO MANILA DEALERS: CITIMOTORS, INC – Makati (Main) Tel. Nos. 892-0331 to 39 / 817-0496 CITIMOTORS, INC – Las Pinas Tel. Nos. 875-1745 / 873-6503 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. – Ortigas (Main) Tel. Nos. 727-0351 to 75 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. – Valle Verde Tel. Nos. 671-9590 to 94 DIAMOND MARCOS HIGHWAY, INC. Tel. Nos 645-4801 to 05 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP – Quezon Avenue Tel. Nos. 372-3901 to 15 DIAMOND SERVICE SATELLITE CORP (DSSC) Tel. Nos. 418-2945 / 935-3731 / 935-3733 DCT HOLDINGS CORP Tel Nos 330-8901 to 05 PEAK MOTORS – Manila Bay Tel Nos 556-0415 / 556-0849 UNION MOTOR CORP. – Paco (Main) Tel. Nos. 563-8481 to 85 / 583-8481 to 87 UNION MOTOR CORP. – Kalookan Tel. Nos. 364-20-61 to 69 LUZON DEALERS: AMCAR AUTOMOTIVE CORP. Tel. Nos. (02) 420-8057 to 58 CALEB MOTOR CORP. Tel. Nos. (02) 250-8057 / (054) 811-6119 CARWORLD, INC. – San Fernando, Pampanga (Main) Tel. Nos. (045)963-1111 / 961-1508 / 963-2601 / 963-7772 / 961-1508 CARWORLD, INC. – Malolos Tel. Nos. (044) 711-2895 to 97 / 933-0027 CARWORLD, INC. – Marilao Tel. Nos. (044) 791-2405 / 791-2406 / 662-3865 / 791-1095 CARWORLD, INC. – Olongapo Tel. Nos (047) 222-3743 / 224-4307 CARWORLD, INC. – Tarlac City, Tarlac Tel. Nos. (045) 982-5551 to 53 / 982-4640 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF BALIUAG CORP. Tel. Nos. (044) 673-4083 to 85 / 766-4235 / 299-8247 to 48 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF CABANATUAN CORP. (Main) Tel. Nos. (044) 463-1391 / 463-6380 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF CABANATUAN CORP. – Isabela Tel. Nos (078) 682-8401 JABEZ MOTOR CORP. Tel. Nos. (02) 529-8106 / (046) 416-5068 / 850-0119 / 416-5060 / 850-1081 MOTORPLAZA, INC. – Calasiao (Main) Tel Nos. (075) 517-3060 / 517-5635 MOTORPLAZA, INC. – Baguio Tel. Nos. (074) 300-3571 / 446-0157 MOTORPLAZA, INC. – La Union Tel. Nos. (072) 700-3834 / 700-3835 MOTORPLAZA, INC – Urdaneta Tel. Nos. (075) 568-2602 / 568-3312 SFM SALES CORP. – San Pablo (Main) Tel. Nos (049) 562-0690 to 91 / 562-6569 SFM SALES CORP. – Lipa Tel. Nos. (043) 756-1018 VISAYAS DEALERS: AVESCOR MOTORS, INC. Tel. Nos. (033) 337-4455 / 337-8486 to 87 AVESCOR MOTORS OF BACOLOD Tel Nos. (034) 435-2111 to 14 FAST AUTOWORLD PHILS. CORP. – Cebu (Main) Tel. Nos (032) 345-2131 to 33 / 420-5777 FAST AUTOWORLD PHILS. CORP. – Cebu South Tel. Nos. (032) 261-0305 / 261-7365 / 261-7126 FAST AUTOWORLD PHILS. CORP. – Dumaguete Tel. Nos (035) 225-1427 to 29 / 225-6925 FAST AUTOWORLD PHILS. CORP. – Tacloban Tel Nos. (053) 323-2379 to 80 / 323-2520 / 323-3724 FAST AUTOWORLD PHILS. CORP. – Tagbilaran Tel. Nos (038) 411-5814 to 15 / 411-2661 MINDANAO DEALERS: FAST AUTOWORLD PHILS. CORP. – Butuan Tel. Nos. (085) 815-3089 FAST AUTOWORLD PHILS. CORP. – Cagayan de Oro Tel. Nos. (088) 855-1546 KARASIA, INC. – Bajada (Main) Tel. Nos (082) 222-1111 to 16 KARASIA, INC. – Tagum Tel. Nos. (084) 217-3582 MINDANAO INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. Nos. (083) 552-7661 to 62 / 552-4781 / 302-0586 ZAMBOANGA MOTORS INC. Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2199 / 991-2138 / 991-2250 / 993-0786
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Cebu Pacific flies to China

Shanghai first, Xiamen Guangzhou, Macau next

By Riza T. Olchondra

CEBU PACIFIC HAS COMPLETED its maiden flight to Shanghai, the first of four Chinese destinations that the Gokongwei-owned budget carrier will be flying to.

The 150-seat A319 deployed for the daily Manila-Shanghai service took off for the first time Wednesday night at 8:05 p.m. It arrived at the Shanghai Pudong International Airport at 11:45 p.m.

The Airbus departed from Shanghai at 12:30 a.m. yesterday and returned to its home base in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 1 at 4:10 a.m.

Cebu Pacific is so far the only Asian budget carrier serving international flights in Shanghai.

Also set to take off are direct flights from Manila to Xiamen, Guangzhou and Macau.

Cebu Pacific will start flying to Xiamen later this month and to Guangzhou and Macau in October.

"Seeing that China is a growing tourist market for the Philippines, we want to be able to replicate the success of our low-cost model in the Philippines in China as well," vice president for marketing and product Candice Iyog said.

The lowest "Go" fare to Shanghai starts at P2,999 one-way.

Iyog said the fastest way to book tickets is through the airline's website, www.cebupacificair.com.

"We are sure that with the low fares we are offering to and from Shanghai, we will be able to stimulate travel and help grow our tourist arrivals from China. We hope that more Filipinos take advantage of our year-round low fares to go and see Shanghai," Iyog said.

Now in its 12th year, Cebu Pacific has the youngest fleet in the Philippines with a fleet age of a little over one year.

The budget carrier operates 14 Airbus aircraft to 20 domestic destinations and soon to be 12 international destinations with the addition of Xiamen, Guanghzou and Macau.

PRULINK

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 11, 2007	Last Week September 04, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.60467	1.60189
Managed Fund - Peso	1.85266	1.86263
Growth Fund - Peso	1.76252	1.79956
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3778	1.3707

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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Wealth Builder and Wealth SECURE

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure

	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
	Sept. 10,2007	Sept. 3,2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.280342	1.276893
Balanced Fund	1.416944	1.443624
Equity Fund	1.653908	1.724213

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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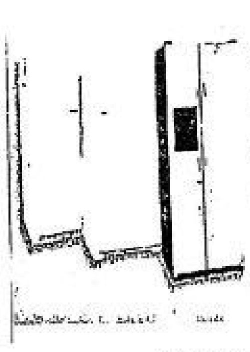

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FRRC25V9CS	25 Stainless Side by Side	119,950.00	69,950.00
FRRC25V9CW	25 White Side by Side	99,950.00	59,950.00
GLTP23V9CS	23 Topmount Stainless	79,950.00	49,950.00
GLTT23V8AW	23 Topmount White	79,950.00	39,950.00
GLTT20V8AW	20 Topmount White	69,950.00	21,950.00

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Fil-Estate undertakes ₱6-B John Hay expansion

Property firm says in 5 years, revenue will reach P13.6B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

HOLDING FIRM FIL-ESTATE CORP. IS UNdertaking a P6-billion expansion of the 250-hectare Camp John Hay tourism and leisure estate in Baguio City, a former US military rest and recreation facility.

To pave the way for the implementation of the remaining construction on the leisure site over the next five years, Fil-Estate's Camp John Hay Development Corp. is currently winding up the restructuring of a lease agreement with the Bases Conversion Development Authority, involving CJH Devco's P2-billion rental payments owed to the government, Fil-Estate Corp. chair Robert John Sobrepeña said.

Following a stockholders' meeting yesterday, Sobrepeña said the remaining work on Camp John Hay includes the construction of a condominium-hotel consisting of 366 rooms, dubbed Camp John Hay Suites. The hotel at present is partly operating with 50 rooms available.

Forest cabins will also be built in the area which will target retirees and foreigners.

Camp John Hay's new development footprint over the next five years covers 13 hectares. This will feature commercial and retail developments, recreational, sports, medical and wellness facilities, condotel and hotel, and private residences.

A town center will also be built near the entrance of the estate which will feature an information technology campus, business park residences and commercial centers.

The P6 billion budget for Camp John Hay's expansion does not yet include the IT Campus, Sobrepeña stressed.

Leisure homes will also be constructed within the year, consisting of five buildings.

The new hotel will be located near the 2,500-seat CAP Convention Center in Camp John Hay to cater to participants.

Sobrepeña also said that over the next five years, Camp John Hay will bring in P13.6 billion in revenues. He also expects net income from the new projects to reach about P3.3 billion. Fil-Estate's interest is equivalent P751 million of the income.

Amazing agricultural profits

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

FROM SEPT. 5 TO 7, I ATTENDED AN international conference involving 12 countries in Chengdu, Sichuan, China.

During breaks in sessions, while we talked about stricter mandatory standards on items such as toys, candies and cement for consumer safety, we heard some of the best words of wisdom from the Chinese.

One is a Chinese saying that reveals the secret of true happiness: "To be happy for an hour, take a nap. To be happy for a day, go fishing. To be happy for a year, spend all your inheritance. But to be happy for a lifetime, help someone."

Sustainable self-help

There are many ways to help someone. One is to provide whatever is needed to start a cycle that will result in sustainable and profitable self-help.

This is similar to the saying that, it is good to give a person a fish, but it is better to teach him how to fish. It was in this spirit that Alyansa Agrikultura conducted a search for such a project.

Omy Royandoyan, executive director of Centro Saka (02-9287464), and author of the book "The Long and Tortuous Road to Coconut Levy," identified a project with amazing profits that could significantly help impoverished coconut farmers: The innovative copra dryer that could cost only P50,000.

12-fold return on investment

An average coconut farmer today earns a P10,000 annual income from the average one-and-a-half hectares he works on. If the copra, with its wet or high moisture content (*pasada*) is sold to an oil mill, it will get an average of P0.80 less than when it is sold in its dried form (*resecada*). Usually, the farmer sells the wet copra for P0.40 less to the cooperative, which in turn sells it for P0.40 less to the oil mill, for a total of P0.80.

One copra dryer can support 200 farmers covering 300 hectares. The national average of 933 kilograms harvested per hectare occurs three times a year. Thus, 200 farmers harvest 839,000 kilos a year.

Assuming the cooperative charges a P0.05 per kilo service fee to the farmer, and returns all its profits from the increased value of dried versus wet copra to him or her, then the net revenue advantage of dried versus wet copra to the farmer is P0.75 per kilo. This results in an increased income for the 200 farmers of P629,250 a year. This is 12.6 times the value of the copra dryer investment of P50,000.

For each farmer, this means that, while the cost allocation of the dryer is only P250 each, his or her additional net return is P3,146. Thus, from this small project, the farmer will have a 31-percent increase from the average P10,000 annual income.

Initial project beneficiaries

As Senator Edgardo Angara said in the MAP-Agri Business and Countryside Development Forum chaired by Ramon Ilusorio last Aug. 20, there is a great need for post-harvest facilities for agricultural growth and farmer welfare improvement. This cannot happen without industry's role.

Following this direction, the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (CeMAP) has donated the cement portion of the copra dryers in eight proposed Centro Saka sites. The rest of the project cost will be shouldered by other groups, such as church organizations, NGOs, LGUs and the farmers themselves. These sites, with the contact persons whom you may call, are listed on the table.

It is hoped that projects with amazing agricultural profits like this will finally be recognized. Today, many of them are not even in the radar screen for investments because of the unfortunate traditional bias against agriculture. But with these projects, amazing profits can be achieved, together with the greater benefits of helping someone, and being happy for a lifetime.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02-8522112.)

INITIAL COPRA DRYER SITES

AREA	COOPERATIVE	CONTACT PERSON
VISAYAS		
Basey, Samar	Kopras Multipurpose Cooperative Inc.	Annie Ogrimen 0921-989-6249
Calbayog, Samar	Basic Ecclesial Community of Samar for Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihood (Becssal-Calbayog)	Father Cesar Aculan 0916-665-6177
Maasin and Hinundayan, Southern Leyte	Coconut Farmers of Southern Leyte Cooperative (Cofa-SL)	Emy Lavina 0919-363-6846 0927-221-5206
Guihulngan, Negros Oriental	Negros del Norte Agricultural Workers and Community MPC (NAWCMPC)	Achilles Solveboloc 0916-321-8113
Bindoy, Negros Oriental	Domolog Tagaytay Multipurpose Cooperative (Dotamco)	Edna Mijares 0910-501-0305
MINDANAO		
AREA	**COOPERATIVE**	**CONTACT PERSON**
Toril, Davao	Toril District Small Coconut Farmers Development Cooperative (Todeco)	Pepito Francisco 082-291-3547
Tandag, Surigao Sur	Surigao del Sur Federation of Agricultural Coperatives (Sufac)	Jun Adorable 0919-511-2548
Parang, Maguindanao	Mindanao Integrated Rural Development Multipurpose Cooperative (Mirad)	Mohammad R. Abas 0916-924-0683

Hefti is new BIR chief

From page B1

plement revenue-raising measures, including a cleanup of the taxpayers database and tightened auditing, to exceed its collection goals for the remaining months of the year and offset the P38.6-billion shortfall recorded in the first half.

Revenue officials said earlier that the BIR likewise met its P82.32-billion collection goal for August.

Hefti has issued a directive for revenue district offices nationwide to conduct a tax audit on at least 30 percent of taxpayers under their jurisdiction before the end of the year.

The BIR's large taxpayers service (LTS) said it has also tightened the audit of the tax compliance of the country's top 1,000 corporations and told delinquents to comply with their obligation of remitting taxes they withhold from suppliers.

In a recent command conference between President Macapagal-Arroyo and BIR officials, the chief executive commended Hefti and other BIR personnel for the improved tax collection after the first-half slippage.

The BIR is tasked to collect P765 billion for the entire year. This is consistent with the goal of limiting the government's budget deficit for 2007 to only P63 billion from last year's P64.8 billion.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 13, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	36.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	57	57.5	56.5	56.5	535,300
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	63	63.5	63	63	2,176,900
935	630	China Banking Corp.	800	800	800	800	6,900
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
75.5	39	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	54.5	55	53.5	54	6,688,200
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	46.5	47	46.5	47	1,232,500
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	200
39.57	14.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	727,600
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	70.5	70.5	69	69	317,700
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	56	56	56	56	13,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.96	2	1.95	2	3,044,000
16.25	2.75	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11	11	10.5	10.75	199,600
42	29	First Metro Invest. Corp	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,790.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	780
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	1,366,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.9	1.9	21,000
1,005.00	225	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	780	785	780	785	220
2,300.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,290.00	2,295.00	2,290.00	2,295.00	200
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	250,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	716,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	67.5	67.5	66	66.5	758,500
92	45.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	75	75	74.5	74.5	848,700
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14.25	14.25	13.5	13.5	3,832,500
105.45	16.36	Manila Electric Co.	79	80	76.5	76.5	1,508,900
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	15,399,000
6.5	3.8	Petron Corp.	5	5.1	5	5	10,905,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	487,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	1,008,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.95	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.3	2,717,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.66	1.78	3,233,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	500
61	33	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52.5	53	52.5	52.5	175,800
25	20	Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	22	22	22	22	12,100
9	4.7	Pancake House Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	2,000
1.96	0.84	RFM Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	1,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	150,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	61.5	62	61.5	62	37,500
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	63.5	63.5	63	63	1,018,700
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	3,187,600
0.55	0.72	Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.59	EEI Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.2	119,000
9.2	4.8	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	297,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4	4	4	4	104,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	4,181,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.35	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.35	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.1	Picop Resources Inc.	0.34	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.94	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	116,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.0975	0.0975	28,500,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.6	9,190,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.95	2.95	2.8	2.9	977,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	46,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	800,000
9.7	4.9	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	1,174,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	232,500,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	21,768,000
1.38	0.5	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	10,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.22	2.24	2.2	2.2	1,311,000
590	370.83	Ayala Corp.	487.5	500	482.5	482.5	317,510
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	16,000
5.8	1.18	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.5	3.5	15,156,000
10.25	3.6	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.6	8.2	8.3	1,431,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	117,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	323,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	200,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	166,000
0.8	0.205	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
11.5	0.98	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.7	4.8	4.55	4.65	2,539,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	7	7	127,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.195	0.21	0.195	0.195	1,108,340,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,300,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	51,000
452.5	215.79	SM Investments Corp.	345	347.5	342.5	345	513,330
2.1	1.04	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	9,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	5,900,000
1.6	0.88	South China Resources Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	20,100
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	530,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	200,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.6	111,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	100,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.25	13.75	13.75	16,276,800
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.12	2,314,000
4.7	2.5	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.6	51,000
2.9	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	15,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.64	1,120,000
0.99	0.49	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	5,580,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	4,520,000
1.48	0.43	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	4,519,000
2.44	1.09	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.4	193,770,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.65	0.7	0.65	0.67	12,740,000
4.4	1.69	Megaworld Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.25	18,867,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	34,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	100,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	1,800,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	45,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	17.5	7,422,500
5.9	1.5	SM Development Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.8	3,780,000
13.5	6.32	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11	11.25	11	11	3,700,400
3.25	0.85	Shang Properties Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	23,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	1,450,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	1,210,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.3	5.3	5	5.2	1,347,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	31	31	15,200
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.3	186,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	682,000
1,445.00	1,025.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,320.00	1,325.00	1,315.00	1,315.00	346,100
2,820.00	2,005.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,675.00	2,685.00	2,675.00	2,675.00	666,880
7.9	4.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	800,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	3,750,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	474,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	8,000,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	2,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.195	0.195	43,780,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.24	188,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.047	0.049	35,800,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.75	1,307,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	10,000
6.8	3.15	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	6,794,000
34.5	15.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	211,500
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	140,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	950,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	1,100
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.25	368,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	146,200
30	10	Paxys Inc.	14.5	14.5	14	14	347,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	873,900,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.2	5.2	5	5.1	73,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	91,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14.25	14.5	14	14.25	2,860,200
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	6,000
3.1	0.33	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.68	1.76	1.66	1.7	99,552,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	55,280,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	5,070,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.027	262,000,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	143,000,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	11.5	12	11	11.25	999,600
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	175,400,000
6.8	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.2	6.3	13,987,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	600,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.32	20,810,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	439,100,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	196,400,000
29	8.6	PNOC Exploration Corp. "B"	25	25	25	25	2,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.25	10	10	116,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.023	95,100,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	873.59 DOWN	1.94	16,595,700	647,767,370.00
Industrial	4,439.06 DOWN	27.41	54,563,800	600,525,660.00
Holding Firms	1,822.65 DOWN	7.27	1,479,392,840	778,152,910.00
Property	1,439.67 DOWN	14.46	281,105,700	780,390,345.00
Service	1,597.87 DOWN	3.08	107,140,980	2,318,558,905.00
Mining & Oil	6,260.67 DOWN	78.57	2,384,346,800	378,030,595.00
All Shares Index	2,083.48 DOWN	7.91		
PSEi	3,289.22 DOWN	18.38		
		GRAND TOTALS	4,323,145,820	5,503,445,785.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

CURRENCIES

September 13, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.719217	1.000000	46.8080
Japan	Yen	0.006296	0.008754	0.4098
United Kingdom	Pound	1.460012	2.030000	95.0202
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.092366	0.128426	6.0114
Switzerland	Franc	0.606935	0.843882	39.5004
Canada	Dollar	0.693489	0.964227	45.1335
Singapore	Dollar	0.475704	0.661419	30.9597
Australia	Dollar	0.603269	0.838785	39.2618
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.907941	2.652801	124.1723
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.191817	0.266702	12.4838
Brunei	Dollar	0.474136	0.659239	30.8577
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000106	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.022476	0.031250	1.4628
UAE	Dirham	0.195834	0.272287	12.7452
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.390400	65.0818
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001073	0.0502
China	Yuan**	0.095620	0.132950	6.2231
Denmark	Kroner	0.134305	0.186738	8.7408
India	Rupee	0.017829	0.024789	1.1603
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.205962	0.286369	13.4044
New Zealand	Dollar	0.512154	0.712099	33.3319
Sweden	Kroner	0.107914	0.150044	7.0233
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021750	0.030241	1.4155

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 12, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 12, 2007

Shares . . .

From page B1

of the Federal Reserve's policy meeting on Sept. 18, dealers said.

On Wednesday, Philippine stocks advanced 1.2 percent as investors were relieved by the public's calm reaction to the guilty verdict.

Index leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. shed P5 to P2,675. *AFP*

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified local bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the SECURITY SERVICES Contract for 2008 at SEC Main Office, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the hiring of Security Services is SIX MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND PESOS (6,480,000.00) whereas, the contract duration shall be for the period of one (1) year.

a. Corporation duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizen of the Philippines; or
b. Bidder should have a valid and current license issued by PNP; and
c. Must have at least ten (10) years continuous operation

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by the eligible bidder starting **September 17 to 26, 2007** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon presentation of original PNP License to Operate and a payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). For further details, please contact Norlan M. De las Alas of GSD at Tel. No. 727-3320. Only those bidders who purchased the Bid Documents are allowed to attend Pre-Bid Conference.

Pre-Bid conference will be on **September 25, 2007, 1:00 p.m.** at the Conference Room, Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department (NTD), 10th Floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for submission and opening of bid envelopes will be on **October 16, 2007, 1:00 p.m.** at the General Services Division (GSD, 4th floor, SEC Building and immediately thereafter, the opening of bids will be held at the Conference Room, Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department (NTD), 10th Floor, SEC Building. Late submission of bid documents will no longer be accepted.

Republic Act 9184, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE AQUINO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Sept. 14 & 21, 2007)

BILIRAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(BILECO)
Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran
Nos. (053) 500-9039 to 42 Fax No. (053) 500-9744
e-mail: bilecomsd@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO) invites interested parties who are qualified to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following schedules of Capital Projects with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as indicated:

a.	Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of 5 mVA Power Transformer, Biliran Sub-Station	Ph P 20,600,000.00
b.	Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of 69 kV Power Circuit Breaker and Control System of 3.15 mVA Power Transformer, Biliran Sub-Station	Ph P 3,700,000.00
c.	Site Development of 5 mVA Power Substation and Area Office in Biliran, Biliran	Ph P 2,100,000.00

The above stated Capital Projects shall be contracted on a design and build scheme with financing.

Pre-Eligibility Conference is scheduled on September 25, 2007 / 10:00 a.m. at BILECO MPB, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran. Issuance of Eligibility Documents will be on September 26-28, 2007. Deadline for the submission of Application for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be on October 2, 2007 / 10.00 a.m. at the Office of the Bids and Award Committee, Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc., Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran. Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible Bidder on October 4-5, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php 15,000.00) at the Secretariat of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Pre-Bid Conference will be held at BILECO MPB, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran on October 8, 2007 / 10:00 a.m., Bid Opening will be conducted on October 22, 2007 / 10:00 a.m. at Marvin James Seaside Inn Conference Hall, Brgy. Alipolo, Naval, Biliran.

Eligibility and bid documents of Bidder shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL criteria. All particulars relative to the eligibility tendering, competitive bidding, and award of Contract shall be in accordance with BILECO Policy No. 98-13 as amended. All proposals shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Bidder's offer to the Contract put out to bid and shall be subject to Post qualification before an award is made.

BILECO reserves the right to reject any application for eligibility and any or all proposals, declare a failure of bidding and to waive any required formality therein, and or to make an award to Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the electric cooperative.

A letter expressing the intent of the Bidder to apply for eligibility and to bid must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee prior to purchase of Eligibility Documents. All communications shall be addressed to the undersigned on the above address with telephone number (053) 500-9041 and facsimile number (053) 500-9744.

RODRIGO P. ROMERO, M.E.
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Noted:

MR MARLON B ROA
General Manager

(PDI - September 14, 2007)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION AND SEALED BIDDING

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) has received a subsidy from the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The proceed of subsidy is for construction of the line under the Rural Electrification Program.

Interested parties are hereby invited to a Pre-Qualification and sealed Bidding for supply or hereunder mention project:

Project : Construction of distribution line for 17 barangays under AWP'07
Location : NORSAMELCO Coverage area
Contract : Supply of Materials and Labor
Amount : Php21.8M

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	
1	Supply of labor and materials for 17 Barangays	1 lot

Bid forms will be issued after passing of Eligibility to Bid and upon payment of Seven Thousand Pesos *(Php7,000.00)* non-refundable before Pre-bid Conference.

Acceptance of letter of Intent	18-Sept-07
Receipt of Eligibility requirements	Sept. 19-Sept. 25, 2007
Issuance of Eligibility to Bid	Sept. 20-Oct. 02, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 11, 2007 @ 2:00 PM
Documents Opening of Sealed bid	October 25, 2007 @ 10:00 PM

Only qualified bidders who passed during the pre-qualified screening will be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bid proposals must be accompanied by Bid security equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The PBAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility check / screening as well as the preliminary examination of Bids. The PBAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest bid.

NORSAMELCO hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein, and to accept such bids as may be deemed advantageous to **NORSAMELCO**.

For further information, please contact the following nos. 09173042867 / 09173042869 / Telefax 055-2518163

(Sgd.) **NILO A. ESTOPA**
Chairman

(Sgd.) **SALVADOR G. HERNANDEZ**
General Manager

(PDI–Sept. 10 & 14, 2007)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Contracting of Consulting Services for Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Program

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the subcontract Design and Implementation of EEL Micro-Financing Scheme of the project "UNDP-GEF-DOE Project Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Program (PELMATP)".

The Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Project (PELMATP) is intended to address the barriers to widespread utilization of energy efficient lighting (EEL) systems in the Philippines. It is aimed at contributing to the realization of the country's sustainable development objectives and its goal in reducing GHG emissions in the energy sector. It will specifically focus on the promotion of EELs energy efficient version of linear fluorescent lamps (i.e., slim tube triphosphor coated), CFLs, high intensity discharge (HID) lamps, ballasts (low loss electromagnetic and electronic) and energy efficient luminaires. One of the main goals of the Project is to establish / enhance collaboration and partnership among organizations for promoting the adoption of EEL Products and to create / facilitate business opportunities in EEL product financing.

To be able to attain said objectives, the project requires the services of a subcontractor who shall undertake the subcontract on the Design and Implementation of EEL Micro-financing Scheme.

Under this component, the project aims to design appropriate financing mechanisms to enable consumer cooperatives to provide credit or financial assistance to households for purchasing of EELs.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **PhP 1,000.00** from the following address :

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 632 901 0273 / 901 0271
Fax No. 632 901 0200 / 889 7177

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting **17 September 2007 to 21 September 2007 only**. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, dates and other schedules for the pre-bid conference and opening of bid envelopes, as well as further details on the scope of services required.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Department of Energy. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI – September 14, 2007)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **CARRASCAL NICKEL CORPORATION** with office address **Unit 201, Summit Tower 1, 530 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Producer of Beneficiated Nickel Silicate Ore** on a **Non-Pioneer Status** with a capacity of **3,000,000 tons per year** with project/plant site located at **Carrascal, Surigao del Sur.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Sept. 14, 2007)

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Notice of Loss

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Pancake House, Inc. Stock Certificate No. 370 covering 1,000,000 shares in the name of Lourdes Beatrice L. Benitez.

Should no one contest on or before Sept. 28, 2007, a new stock certificate will be issued to replace the lost certificate.

(PDI--Sept. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

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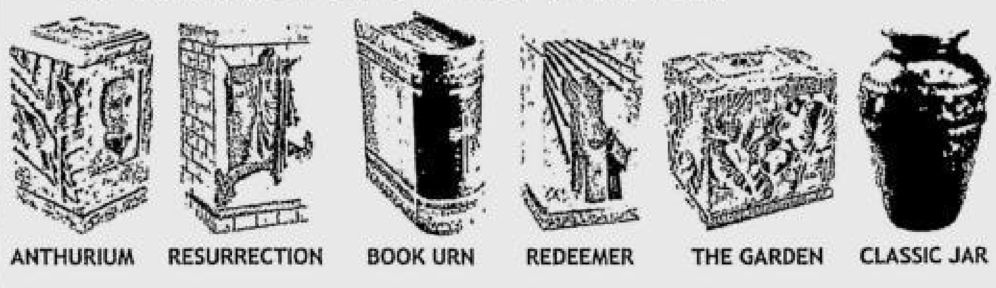

CREMATION URNS

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

BENJAMIN L. SHUN

"BIGBEN"

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 12, 2007 at the age of 65.

His loving wife **Luz**, children **Sidney**, **Sigrid** and **Ian**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Chapel A1, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 16, 2007, 8:30 a.m. after the service at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Death Notice

VALERIANO S. ABENG
July 8, 1932 – September 12, 2007

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati.

Cremation will be on September 16, 2007, 9:00 a.m. at Loyola, Guadalupe.

EMILIA FONT
Died September 11, 2007
at the age of 91.

Her body lies in state at Chapel O Loyola-Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation today, September 14, 2007, 1 p.m. at Loyola-Guadalupe.

OBITUARIES

"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28

RHYAN MAÑALAC ESTEBAN

May 1, 1980 – September 12, 2007
of Poblacion, Porac and
Holy Family Village, Phase I, Cutcut, Angeles City.

His body lies in state at
Holy Mary Memorial Park, Cutcut, Angeles City.

Interment will be at the
St. Catherine Memorial Park,
Poblacion, Porac, Pampanga
at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 16, 2007.

His bereaved parents, ***Roger*** and ***Cel***; brother ***Rainer*** and relatives request his friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Pre-need firm files estafa suit vs LBC execs

By Daxim L. Lucas

TROUBLED PRE-NEED FIRM The Professional Group Corp. has asked the court to compel its former business partner, LBC Development Corp., to turn over millions of pesos sent back to the country as policy payments by its clients abroad.

In a complaint filed with the Mandaluyong City prosecutor's office, TPG president Yolanda D. Miranda said that LBC owes the firm a total of P68.1 million as of June 2007 in the form of "unremitted collections... for TPG's pre-need products."

According to the complainant, LBC Express Inc. president Marilou R. Olan admitted that the firm could not afford to pay the outstanding amount due to TPG because of "cash flow constraints."

Charged were Juan Carlos G. Araneta, Carlos R. Araneta, Javier C. Mantecon, Joseph Jeffrey B. Rodriguez, Marilyn R. Aben, Ma. Theresa F. Rañeses, Ma. Eliza G. Berenger and Olan.

"LBC could still easily comply with its undertaking to remit its collections to TPG even when it is experiencing financial problems if such collections had not been devoted to any other purpose," she said.

According to Miranda, LBC had been remiss in remitting collections to TPG from its foreign clients as early as 2002.

In 1999, both firms entered into an agreement to offer TPG's pre-need products to the public here and abroad through LBC outlets.

Last May, TPG was thrown a lifeline by the Makati Regional Trial Court, which approved the rehabilitation plan of the cash-strapped firm.

Makati Judge Cesar O. Untalan endorsed the recommendation of TPG receiver Arthur R. Ponsaran, saying the court would now give TPG a second chance in a bid to protect the interest of its plan holders.

Local governments back DA's proposed '08 budget

By Amy R. Remo

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS have expressed their full support for the Department of Agriculture's P25.9-billion proposed budget for 2008, which is expected to fund initiatives for farm productivity.

In a resolution adopted by the League of Provinces of the Philippines, the group said it would help safeguard the government's long-term strategy to sustain the agriculture sector's high growth path through the DA's five-point program.

The program aims to raise farm yields and make farming more profitable for small farmers, fisherfolk and other stakeholders.

The House of Representatives during a recent hearing also extended its support for the DA's 2008 budget, which is 35 percent higher than this year's allocation of P19.16 billion.

Once the budget is approved, the DA would allocate P8.8 billion for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities, while P4.5 billion would be used to put up more post-harvest facilities.

Another P122 million would be used for rural credit; P213 million for market development; P966 million for extension, education and training; and P20 billion for the implementation of the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Program.

In a presentation before the House Committee on Appropriations on Sept. 7, Yap explained that the 35-percent increase in the DA's 2008 appropriations is needed to further raise investments for its priority programs.

CTPL system seen to work just fine

Insurance firms claim CTPL measure curbed sale of fake policies

By Michelle V. Remo

NONLIFE INSURANCE FIRMS claimed that the temporary system established recently to regulate the compulsory third-party liability business has curbed the sale of fake CTPL policies.

The Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association Inc. (Pira) said complaints against fake CTPL policies have subsided since the interim solution was put in place two months ago.

"Since July 25, the system has blocked thousands of CTPL policies," said Pira president Ramon Dimacali. "Unscrupulous persons at LTO can no longer register vehicles using fake CTPLs because the system will not allow that."

Under the interim solution, all licensed nonlife insurance firms may sell CTPL policies to vehicle owners. But an electronic database managed by the information technology service provider of the Land Transportation Office confirms whether a CTPL policy is fake or legitimate.

The temporary measure is a compromise between the Department of Finance and the Department of Transportation and Communications that were pushing for different systems to regulate the CTPL business.

The DOTC wants the Government Service Insurance System to be the sole provider of CTPL policies. Under this proposal, individuals registering their vehicles with the LTO are required to buy the CTPL policy from the GSIS.

The DOF was against a monopoly of the CTPL business. It said all licensed insurance firms should be allowed to sell policies, but it wanted to establish an electronic clearinghouse that will authenticate CTPL policies. The clearinghouse should be managed by the Insurance Commission and Pira.

The DOTC issued a department order implementing the GSIS solution. But Pira, saying the monopoly was unconstitutional and would lead to job loss for many brokers, brought the matter to the Makati Regional Trial Court. The court favored Pira and issued a preliminary injunction on the DOTC order.

But for now, the interim measure agreed upon by the DOF and the DOTC is currently being implemented.

Because the measure proved to be working, Pira said, the government should disregard the option of allowing the GSIS to monopolize the CTPL business.

The statement is in response to an earlier pronouncement by newly reappointed Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis, who said he was in favor of the GSIS proposal.

Malinis said that, once the court decides in favor of the GSIS model, then the Insurance Commission would work on its immediate implementation.

$246M in 'hot money' . . .

From page B1

eign currency-denominated Philippine bonds) and local bonds. However, there's cost because this is happening still within the backdrop of the US subprime crisis," said Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. senior vice president Marcelo Ayes.

The US Federal Reserve is expected to slash its benchmark rate by 25 to 50 basis points during its Sept. 18 meeting in order to ease a worsening credit crunch that, in turn, could further dampen financial markets across the globe.

The liquidity squeeze was caused by problems in the US housing sector due to rising defaults by subprime mortgage borrowers or those with imperfect credit history and very little equity.

In August, the growing risk aversion linked to this subprime crisis in the US resulted in the net outflow of hot money from the Philippines.

But despite the net outflow in August, the eight-month net inflow still amounted to $3.36 billion, or more than three times better than the $1-billion windfall in the same period last year.

"The nervousness in the market sparked by the US mortgage crisis led to some outflow during August but overall, the country's economic fundamentals appeared to have broadly kept investor interest in the Philippines for the first eight months of the year," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"Moreover, the BSP's announcement that local banks have no exposure to subprime assets also helped ease investors' concerns," Tetangco said.

About 85 percent of registered portfolio investments consisted of investments in shares listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange while 15 percent were in peso-denominated government securities, primarily Fixed Rate Treasury Notes or FXTNs.

From January to August, gross investment inflow amounted to $11.2 billion mostly coming from the United Kingdom, the United States and Singapore. These exceeded the gross capital outflow of $7.9 billion for the period.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Roxas Boulevard, Corner Pablo Ocampo, Sr. Street
Manila 1004

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 33-07

September 11, 2007

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9399

Pursuant to Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9399, the following Rules and Regulations are hereby promulgated to implement the provisions of said Act.

RULE 1
TITLE, PURPOSE AND CONSTRUCTION

ARTICLE 1. *Title.* – These Rules shall be known and cited as the Implementing rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) No. 9399, otherwise known as *"An Act Declaring a One-Time Amnesty on Certain Tax and Duty Liabilities, Inclusive of Fees, Fines, Penalties, Interests and Other Additions Thereto, incurred by Certain Business Enterprises Operating Within the Special Economic Zones and Freeports Created Under Proclamation No. 163, Series of 1993; Proclamation No. 216, Series of 1993; Proclamation No. 420, Series of 1994; and Proclamation No. 984, Series of 1997, Pursuant to Section 15 of Republic Act No. 7227, as Amended, and for Other Purposes."*

ARTICLE 2. *Purpose.* – These Rules are promulgated to prescribe procedures and guidelines to effectively implement the grant of the one-time remedial tax amnesty on all applicable tax and duty liabilities, including local taxes and impositions, incurred by registered business enterprises operating within Special Economic Zones and Freeport Zones created by virtue of Section 15 of RA No. 7227, as amended, or that might have accrued to said business enterprises arising from the rulings of the Supreme Court in *John Hay People's Alternative Coalition vs. Lim, G.R. No. 119775 dated October 24, 2003 and Coconut Oil Refiners Association, Inc. v. Torres, G.R. No. 132527, dated July 29, 2005.*

ARTICLE 3. *Construction.* – These Rules shall be construed and applied in accordance with and in furtherance of the policies and objectives of RA 9399. In case of conflict or ambiguity, which may arise in the implementation of these Rules, the Department of Finance, in coordination and in consultation with the concerned government agencies/corporations mentioned in Section 3 of RA 9399, shall issue the necessary clarification.

RULE 2
COVERAGE

ARTICLE 4. *Coverage.* – Business enterprises operating, authorized, duly registered and granted with tax and duty incentives prior to the effectivity of RA 9399, within the following Special Economic Zones and Freeport Zones may avail themselves of the one-time remedial amnesty, to wit:

1. Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) created under Proclamation No. 163, series of 1993;
2. Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone (PPSEFZ) created under Proclamation No. 216, series of 1993;
3. John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ) created under Proclamation No. 420, Series of 1994; and
4. Morong Special Economic Zone (MSEZ) created under Proclamation No. 984, series of 1997.

RULE 3
PROCEDURE FOR AVAILMENT AND SCOPE OF AMNESTY

ARTICLE 5. *Procedure for Availment.* — To avail of the one-time remedial amnesty, business enterprises operating, authorized, duly registered and granted with tax and duty incentives prior to the effectivity of RA 9399 shall file a *notice of availment* and the relevant *tax amnesty return* with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), in such form as may be jointly prescribed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BOC), and, thereafter, pay an amnesty fee in the amount of TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS *(P25,000.00) within a period of six (6) months from the effectivity of RA 9399.*

ARTICLE 6. *Scope of Amnesty.* – The one time remedial amnesty for applicable tax and duty liabilities, including local taxes and impositions, shall comprise and be limited only to the difference between all national and local tax impositions under relevant tax laws, rules and regulations, and the five percent (5%) tax on gross income earned by business enterprises, as determined under relevant revenue regulations of the BIR and memorandum circulars of the BOC during the corresponding period.

RULE 4
EXCLUSION, IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES

ARTICLE 7. *Exclusions.* – The one-time remedial amnesty under RA 9399 shall not include applicable taxes and duties on articles, raw materials, capital goods, equipment and consumer items removed from Special Economic Zones and Freeport Zones and entered into the customs territory of the Philippines for local or domestic sale, which shall be subject to the usual taxes and duties, as prescribed in the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, and the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended.

ARTICLE 8. *Immunities and Privileges* – Registered business enterprises operating within the subject Special Economic Zones and Freeport Zones who have availed themselves of the one-time remedial amnesty and have complied fully with all the conditions under RA 9399 and these Rules shall be immune from any civil, criminal and/or administrative liabilities arising from, or incident to the nonpayment of taxes, duties, and other charges incurred, or that may have accrued to them from the date of their registration with the subject economic zones up to the finality of the judgments in *John Hay People's Alternative Coalition vs. Lim, G.R. No.* 119775 *dated October 24, 2003 and Coconut Oil Refiners Association, Inc., v. Torres, G.R. No.* 132527, *dated July 29, 2005.*

RULE 5
FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 9. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any section or provision of these Rules be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All orders, circulars, memoranda, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with these Rules, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

ARTICLE 11. *Effectivity.* – These Rules shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Done in the city of Manila, Philippines this 11th day of September 2007.

(Sgd.) **MARGARITO B. TEVES**
Secretary

(PDI – September 14, 2007)

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South Point Driving Range, Muntinlupa City ◎ B-4 Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

BUSINESS

Philip Morris bucks cut in tax on Pall Mall

By Michelle V. Remo

PHILIP MORRIS MANUFACTURING INC. has questioned the decision of the Department of Finance to cut the excise tax on Pall Mall cigarettes produced by competitor British American Tobacco (BAT).

Philip Morris said the DOF went against the Sin Tax law when it granted last month the request of BAT for a lower tax on Pall Mall.

"The tax principle violated is the rule prohibiting downward reclassification. This rule, in relation to the determination of the proper tax classification of a new brand, means that a cigarette brand, which has already been classified in a higher excise tax segment, can no longer be finally classified in a lower tax segment," said Chris Nelson, Philip Morris managing director, in a Sept. 9 letter to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue last year raised the excise tax on Pall Mall cigarettes to P26 a pack from P6.74.

The BIR said imported cigarettes, which are duty-free, were charged a higher excise tax rate.

BAT, however, appealed the BIR's decision with the DOF, the BIR's mother agency. BAT said locally produced Pall Mall were introduced in the market even before imported ones were sold in duty-free shops.

BAT added that since last year, Pall Mall cigarettes were no longer imported.

The DOF, upon approval by Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr., sided with BAT and kept Pall Mall's excise tax rate at P6.74 a pack.

Jose Mario Buñag, who was internal revenue commissioner at the time the BIR decided to increase the tax on Pall Mall, opposed the DOF's decision, citing the Sin Tax law's provision against the downward classification of excise tax.

Coffee exports up 27% in H1

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INdustry yesterday expressed confidence that coffee exports would continue to grow as revenues in the first half increased 27 percent to $3.35 million.

The International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency (Icoca), which is part of the DTI, reported that volumes reached a total of 1.12 million kilograms as of June this year.

This was 15.8 percent lower than the 1.33 million kilograms shipped out in the same period of 2006, but revenues increased because more processed beans were exported.

Created in 1980, Icoca is tasked with the negotiation and implementation of the International Coffee Agreement in the Philippines to keep export destinations—mostly country-signatories of the ICA—open to Philippine coffee shipments.

Icoca data show that 99 percent of shipments was still soluble coffee, while the rest were green beans and roasted coffee.

Japan was the top destination, accounting for 86 percent of the volume, while South Korea had 7 percent and Malaysia, Thailand and Greece took 2 percent each.

Also, Japan took 95 percent of the total 4,144 kg of green beans shipments while China took the remainder.

At the same time, the United States bought 95 percent of the total 2,020 kg of roasted coffee shipments while Saudi Arabia bought the rest.

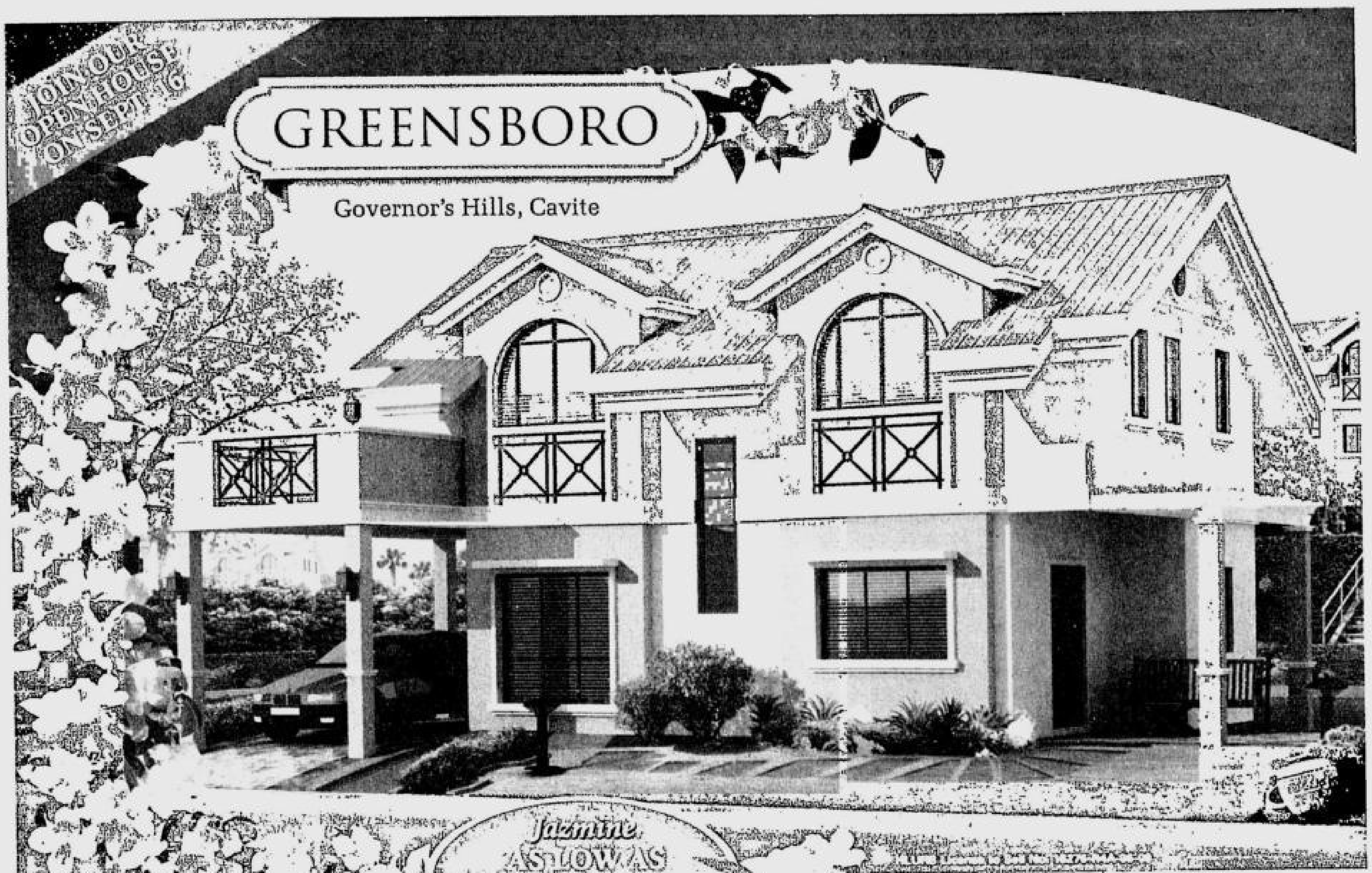
First half volumes of roasted coffee shipments also increased by 49 percent from 1,353 kg last year.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said in a statement the DTI hoped the sector could sustain its growth and continue to contribute to the growth of the export sector.

Icoca data show that 2006 figures brought sales from the past five years to a combined $17.8 million or an average of some $3.6 million a year.

In terms of prices, domestic coffee prices for Robusta green beans showed a steady increase from an average of P77 a kilo in January to P83 in May and to about P89 a kilo in June.

Aquino said that at these prices, many farmers were expected to be encouraged to go back to coffee farming.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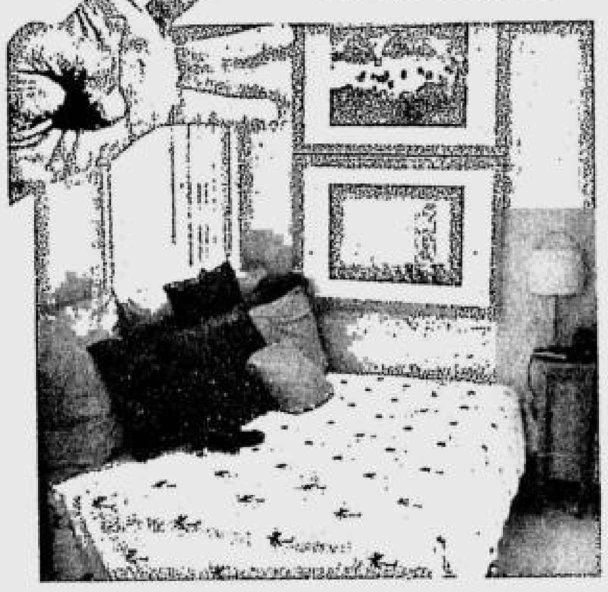

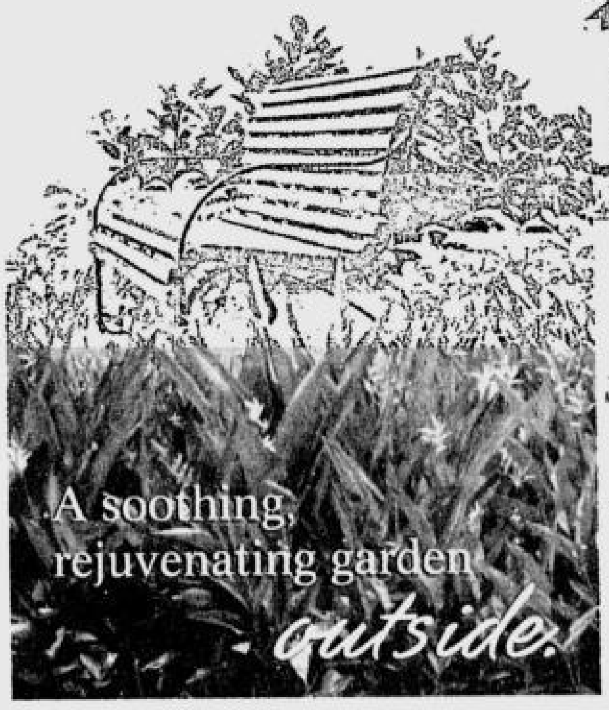

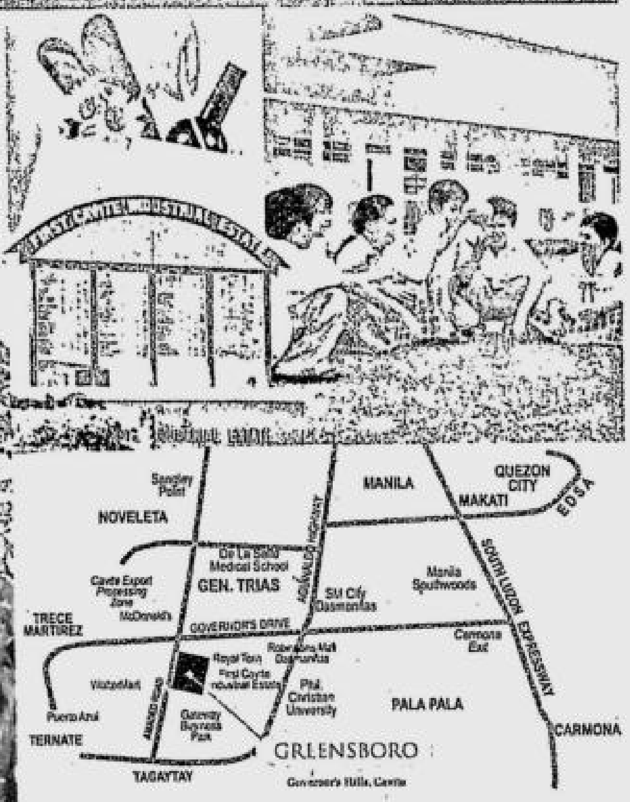

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Vegetarian restaurants win health buffs in Baguio

Mushroom 'sisig,' mock 'adobo' on the menu

AZOTEA Greens owner Ed Joel Carlos

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon
Photos by Elmer Kristian Dauigoy
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE WEATHER AND ITS vegetables are among the top draws of the country's summer capital.

But while Baguio is a major outlet of vegetables produced in Benguet and Mt. Province, only a handful of vegetarian restaurants thrive in the city.

These restaurants, however, survive the intense competition among local food outlets because they serve a steady and loyal market among health buffs and members of various groups who avoid meat in their diets.

Ed Joel Carlos, owner of the Azotea Greens, said that he wants to promote a vegetarian diet in a community known to be predominantly "meat eaters" to advocate a healthy lifestyle.

"We do not belong to any spiritual movement which promotes vegetarianism but they inspire us, they are part of our market," Carlos said.

He said he and his wife Ave became vegetarians eight years ago because they wanted to live healthier. They were co-owners of the '70s Bistro, a popular music joint and bar in Quezon City.

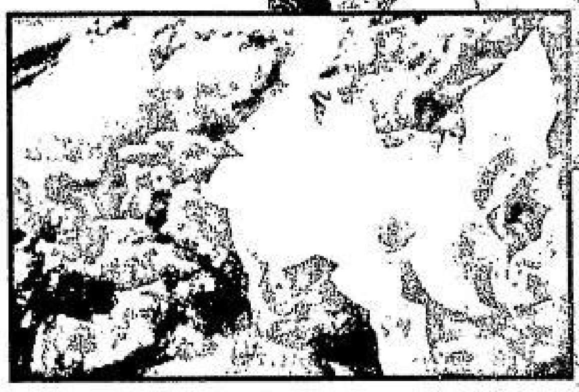
Carlos said it would take a lot of creativity to prepare a dish using only vegetables.

He said they had to make their dishes appealing to their clients and even to those who are not strictly vegetarians so they prepare popular Pinoy dishes like *adobo*, *afritada*, *nilaga*, *kaldereta* and *ginataan* using "vegetable meat."

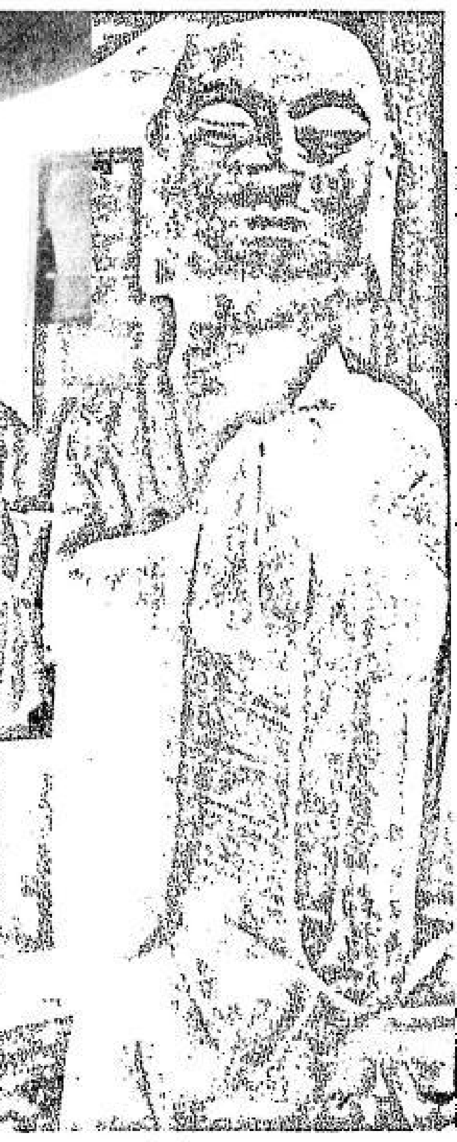
Carlos said they use "veggie meat" made of soy, wheat and corn protein and carageenan (edible seaweed) as substitute for real meat.

He said Azotea Greens became popular for its "mushroom *sisig*," a family recipe made of minced button mushrooms, tofu and spices.

VEGETARIAN B2-3



ADOBO, curry, *siomai* and sushi made from veggie meat



A ZEN Garden greets customers of Bliss Café.

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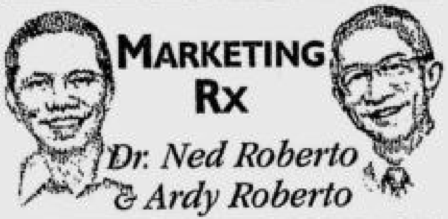
Medley of questions & Rx's



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

QUESTION: WE'RE IN A HIGHLY competitive industry. We heard you once say that the No. 1 marketing nightmare is a price war. What should we do when challenged by a price war? Isn't this what's going on now between Smart and Globe?

Answer: We're not so sure that the competition between Smart and Globe qualifies as a price war. In fact, what we see as a price war isn't about price at all under closer scrutiny.

That's true of the two telcos you mentioned, especially with respect to consumer SMS texting and even voice calls. Those lower price quotations you've seen in their print media ads were actually not about pricing but were about "packaging."

If you observe more closely, you'll see that these telcos have become the ultimate and unrelenting "*tingi*" marketers. Those lower prices were just a consequence of the "sachet-ing" of the service offers. The marketing strategy put in place was the "sachet-ing" rather than the pricing.

Price sensitivity

When we mention all these qualifications, we do not mean to deny that there are no price skirmishes that are taking place. There are. And they become more frequent when the market becomes more and more sensitive to price.

This happens when it gets increasingly harder for consumers to tell the difference between competing companies' services and products.

That's what you see in the telcos. Nobody is into analog anymore. That was true at the intro stage of many moons ago. And the playing field in terms of strength of signals and extent of coverage is now getting even.

Our colleagues are quick to point out to us that Smart continues to lead in service differentiation with its recent mobile TV launch. Of course that's a differentiator. But to whom? To the entire market? Who values mobile TV in other words? You cannot deny that this is a small (if not a mini) segment of cell phone users. That's not the service differentiator we're talking about.

So back to your question. What should you do when challenged by a price competitor or competitors? Check the following:

- Is the market's highly sensitive to price?
- Is true service and image differentiation getting harder and harder to own?
- Is the playing field getting more and more even?

If it's "yes" to all three questions, then be prepared for a price war. To gain the upper hand, you have to become even more creative and innovative.

But suppose your facts and figures give a "not sure" answer to one question, and a "not really" to one or both of the two other questions. Then what?

Market segments

Then, we say, check if you and the price competitor belong to the same price segment. In a previous column, we showed that the first response to a competitor that has lowered price should not be to immediately follow with a price cut.

The correct first response is to check price segment membership. If you belong, for example, to a premium price segment while your price competitor belongs to an economy price segment, then you are better off ignoring the price reduction.

Why? That's because the consumers in the two price segments hold differing priority service values. The economy price segment places top priority on low price and quality to its consumers is only secondary.

On the other hand, consumers in the premium price segment hold an opposite set of priority values: Quality comes first and price is secondary. What if you and the price competitor belong to the same price segment? Then we say: "What are you waiting for wasting your time reading this column? Go and match the price cut.

In fact, if your numbers will allow it, over-react.

Make a deeper cut to signal to the price competitor that you're not the kind of enemy they would want or can afford to fight.

(Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.)

Making waste management a hard habit

By DJ Yap

KITAKYUSHU CITY—IN THIS industrial hub at the southern tip of Japan, three-foot-tall young citizens learn about reducing, reusing and recycling at the same time they start reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic.

For the people of this quaint, quiet community, the secret to a clean city is to pass along good habits and sound practices to the children.

"If people learn how to deal with waste when they're children, the habit will stick until they grow old, and they will teach their own kids," said Miyoko Morofuji, who oversees the Kitakyushu Environment Museum.

But teaching children about the virtues of recycling is not as easy as putting them in a classroom and giving a lecture.

In Kitakyushu, "age-appropriate" programming is used in its public environmental education program, involving workshops, games and crafts—depending on whether one is a toddler or a teen, said Morofuji.

"It is important that the children are engaged in the activities, so they retain the lessons," she said.

Playacting

For instance, children here listen to the exploits of "Gomilla," the garbage version of Godzilla, in classroom playacting, and interact with "Due" (Reduce), "Yuu" (Reuse), and "Sai" (Recycle), a trio of firefly mascots at the museum.

Kids also make butterflies out of candy wrappers, or produce "stained glass" art out of snack packaging, under the supervision of volunteers and elderly residents who help out at the facility.

The young ones also participate in Mirai Hotaru Bingo, a game in which the participants are asked about their household habits, instead of simply picking numbers from the lottery.

"After the game, the participants are asked what to do with the bingo cards, considering what they learned," she said.

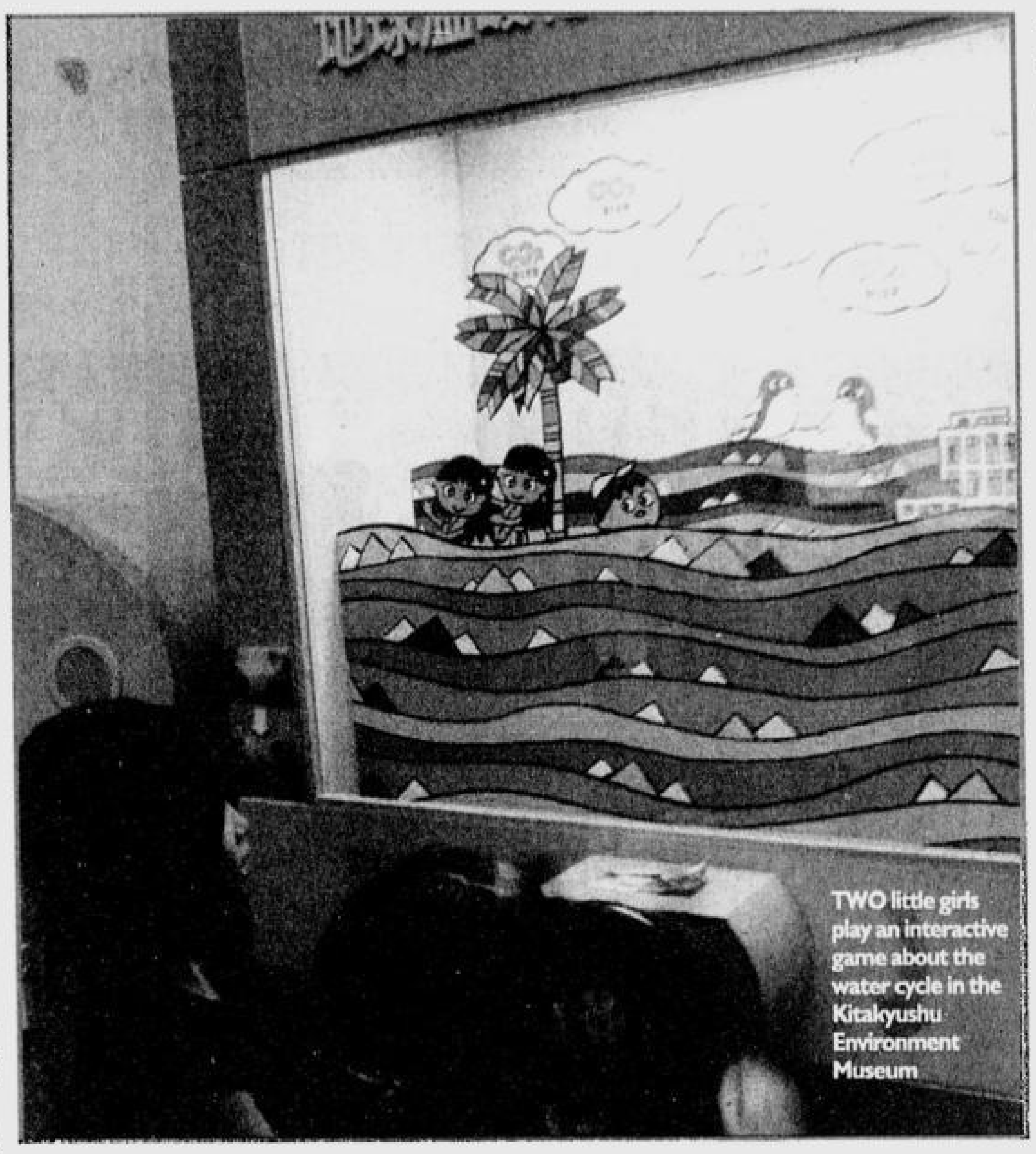
"The correct answer, of course, is to give them back to the teacher so others can reuse them," said Morofuji, who spoke at the Asian Pacific City Summit from July 30-Aug. 1.

Urban charm

With the theme "Urban Charm–Building a Beautiful City by Residents," the summit, attended by officials, city planners, and environmental managers from all over the region, coincided with the Asian Journalist Conference in Fukuoka, hosted by UN-Habitat.

For slightly older teens, said Morofuji, the pursuits are a bit more challenging, such as hands-on garbage classification activities, and discussions on shopping bags and their impact on the environment.

Teens are also taught to reuse their "furoshiki," traditional Japanese carrying bags made from huge strips of cloth that are folded to wrap merchandise as big as watermelons.



TWO little girls play an interactive game about the water cycle in the Kitakyushu Environment Museum

At the Environment Museum, children and their parents are treated to an assortment of sights and sounds that convey a message of environmental protection and preservation.

There are cabinets showcasing "Eco-Goods" like ties, shirts, and mugs fully made out of recyclable materials.

A model of a traditional Japanese home, also made from recyclables, is on display at the center, showing the daily activities of a big family, with mother about to go on a grocery run, grandpa soaking in a hot tub, brother pruning the garden, and the like.

Tables are also set up with volunteers showing how certain materials like plastic bottles are ground up, melted and converted into new materials.

Arcade games with Earth-friendly content are also scattered throughout the facility attracting not a few of the young visitors.

A couple of "ra-dioramas" are set up for the adults, showing miniature scenes of 1960s-era Kitakyushu in intricate and exquisite detail.

In the background, a story, complete with dialogue and sound effects, tells the events of the city's dark past—in particular the heavy pollution that it once suffered.

As the story moves from one scene to the next, so does the lighting, guiding viewers to the progression of the story.

Specially designed

Morofuji said the materials in the museum were specially designed to amaze and delight the visitors.

"We make sure that they will not forget their visit," she said. "Our message has to reach them."

For its aggressiveness toward environment protection, Kitakyushu does not need to look far for inspiration. It needs only to look 50 years back to understand the necessity of taking steps for a cleaner urban landscape.

In the 1960s, Kitakyushu gained infamy for

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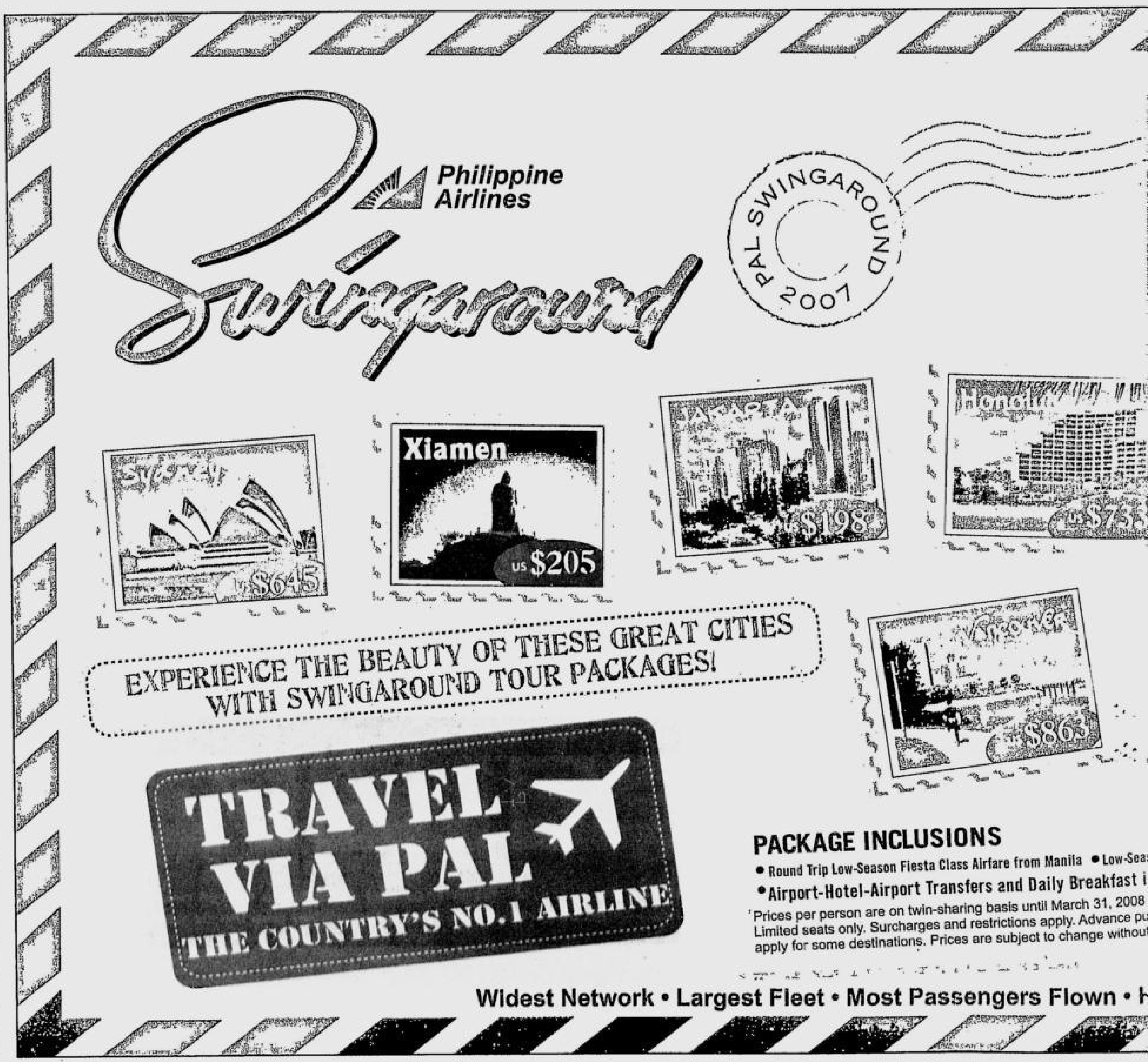

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to break

s:of a quaint Japanese ity learn how to build a clean city early in life

THREE kids and their guardian answer quizzes about the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle)

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all metal articles.

Ohta said the key is to reduce the volume of wastes to be sorted, collected, and recycled at the household level.

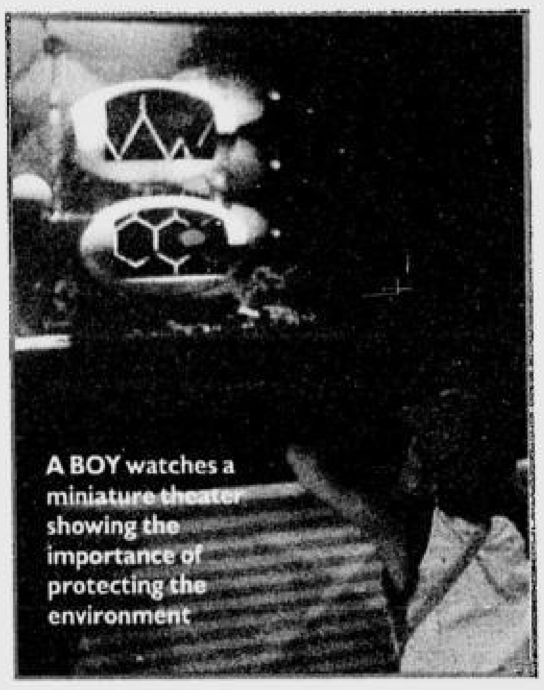
The solution can be surprisingly simple.

Since 2006, the city has started a "No Plastic Shopping Bag Movement," said Ohta.

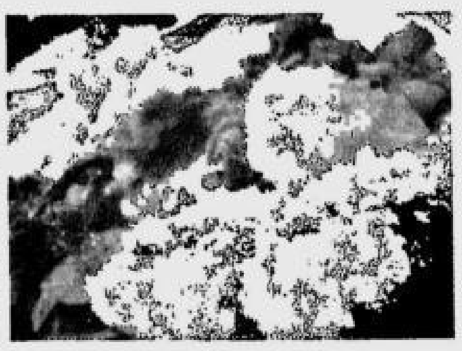
"We want the people to say no to plastic bags, and use their own bags when going shopping. They may also use furoshiki, which is our traditional wrapping cloth," he said.

Ohta said the goal is to reduce the plastic bags in the market by at least 20 percent, or about 300 million of them.

In equivalent terms, he said, that amounts to 28,000 drums of crude oil.



A BOY watches a miniature theater showing the importance of protecting the environment



CUSTOMERS of Azotea Greens have a wide choice of dishes made from veggie meat and vegetables.

Vegetarian restaurants ...

From page B2-1

Aside from Filipino dishes, Azotea Greens also serves Italian and Chinese vegetable dishes. The restaurant is located at the second floor of the La Azotea building on Session Road.

'Heaven on Earth'

The Heaven on Earth Vegetarian Center, at the fourth floor of Abanao Square on Abanao Street, serves another set of clients for its vegetarian fare.

Rafael Wasan, Heaven on Earth owner, said his membership to the spiritual movement Ananda Marga helped him embrace a healthier lifestyle.

"We would like to provide a choice ... that was why we put up this place," he said.

Wasan and his wife Rose said since becoming vegetarians in the 1980s when they joined the Ananda Marga, they rarely get sick or contracted any disease.

He said eating "just vegetables" would not make one's body weak as vegetables could provide the required dietary needs even without meat.

Heaven on Earth serves a complete meal, consisting of two viands and a cup of brown rice, for P39. It serves Filipino *adobo*, *afritada*, *sisig* and other dishes using veggie meat and tofu.

Wasan said they do not use dairy products—milk, butter and eggs—and avoid garlic and onion in their dishes.

He said they use herbs (basil, oregano) and other spices (turmeric) in their dishes because these are healthier.

"What we are doing is more of an advocacy than profit," he said.

Bliss Café

Now on its third year, Bliss Café remains popular among Baguio residents and tourists looking for fine dining experience.

Located at the second floor of Munsayac Inn on Leonard Wood Road, this vegetarian restaurant prepares "slow food" because all meals are cooked as ordered.

Shanti Isla and Jim Ward, owners of Bliss Café, said they wanted their clients to enjoy the food and ambience of Bliss Café.

"From a business standpoint, we are categorized as fine-dining restaurant that is why the food costs higher. More than 70 percent of our clients are tourists," Ward said.

"We love what we are doing, but it is still an uphill battle to get Filipinos [accept a] vegetable diet. I think there should be more education on proper diet," he said.

He said Bliss Café is a place where one can meditate. The scent of incense and images of Buddha would greet clients at the art gallery and dining area. Books on vegetarianism and Buddhism are available for clients.

Bliss' "mock-duck" *adobo* curry style is among the favorite dishes. The "duck meat" is made of special gluten and is served with pasta and eggplant.

The "Mexico set" (burritos filled with red beans, corn, cabbage and cheese) and Indian set (paneer or Indian white cheese sauteed in curry and cumin seeds, potato and basil) are also popular among customers.

The restaurant also serves pasta, vegetable salad and sandwiches. It also hosts art exhibits, poetry reading sessions and film showings.

OMG!

To say that "Oh My Gulay" is a vegetarian restaurant is an overstatement.

The restaurant is one of the features of the Victor Oteyza Community Art Space (Vocas) run by filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik at the family's La Azotea building on Session Road.

Tahimik describes his restaurant as "semi-fine dining" where meals are "not cheap and not expensive."

"We are a restaurant with no ideology in a nonmeat enterprise. We do not have any expectations in terms of profit. We put up the restaurant to support the activities of Vocas. With its modest profit, [we hope] it can support the art space," Tahimik said.

Vocas' interior design and its art space filled with paintings and woodcarvings of local artists draw clients to the place and eventually to the restaurant, said Tahimik.

Oh My Gulay offers a choice of pasta dishes, salad, sandwiches and beverage that uses the freshest vegetables and fruits from the local market. A dish costs at least P90.

Their pasta *putanesca* (playfully called "Anak ng Putanesca") usually elicits laughter from clients browsing the menu.

From marijuana to silkworms

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KAPANGAN, BENGUET—GOODBYE marijuana, hello silkworms.

In a bid to finally erase the stigma of being once a major source of marijuana in the country, farmers in Kapangan (pop: 18,137) are now building 20 rearing houses for more than 40,000 silkworms.

The silkworms will spin cocoons to produce raw silk in bulk, enough to make this town the Cordillera's major silk producer, Mayor Robert Canuto said.

Fe Donato, provincial fiber officer, said the rearing houses were being built in nine villages to discourage farmers from planting marijuana.

These are Cabilisan, Pudong, Cuba, Nalbengan, Labueg, Taba-ao, Bolinsak, Pongayan and Cadtay.

Cooperative leads way

The silkworms, she said, will feast on the leaves of more than 5,000 mulberry plants cultivated on eight hectares of land.

Donato said farmers from the Kapangan Environmental Livelihood Multi-Purpose Cooperative would lead the cultivation of the mulberry farms and the management of the rearing houses.

Silk is the town's adopted product under the government's "One Town, One Product" program. Kapangan produced 265 kilograms of cocoons in 2005 and 391 kilograms in 2006.

Donato said 10 kg of fresh cocoons could produce a kilogram of raw silk.

"Around 900 to 1,000 cocoons are needed to produce silk material enough for a regular sized barong Tagalog. We need 500 to 600 cocoons to produce a kilogram of raw silk," she said.

She said a kilogram of raw silk could produce 13 meters of silk fabric measuring 36 inches wide, and 15 meters of silk fabric if woven at 32 inches wide.

Additional income

"It's a battle [against marijuana] that we have to win," Canuto said.

"Just like planting yacon (a root crop variety) and anthurium, raising silkworms would interest farmers because it promises additional income," he said.

The P1 million the town is using to build the rearing houses came from the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB).

Local officials are awaiting another P1 million from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) to complete the project.

Donato said the provincial fiber office, the Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida) and local officials will supervise the silkworm project to help ensure its success.

GOINGS-ON

Davao investors prepare for tourism-driven boom

INVESTORS HERE HAVE PUT IN AT LEAST P50 million to make the 4th floor of Marco Polo Davao the city's newest leisure and events hub.

The new capital came from Halifax Davao Hotel Inc. chaired by Carlos G. Dominguez.

The P50 million turned Marco Polo Davao's 4th level into a new facility dubbed "The Deck," which further highlights the city's rise as the investors' preferred business site in Southern Mindanao.

The Deck was launched during the recent Kadayawan festival by the city's government and business leaders, corporate executives and prominent families led by Vice Mayor Sara Duterte and Marco Polo Davao general manager Stanley Lau.

Convergys helps Gawad Kalinga

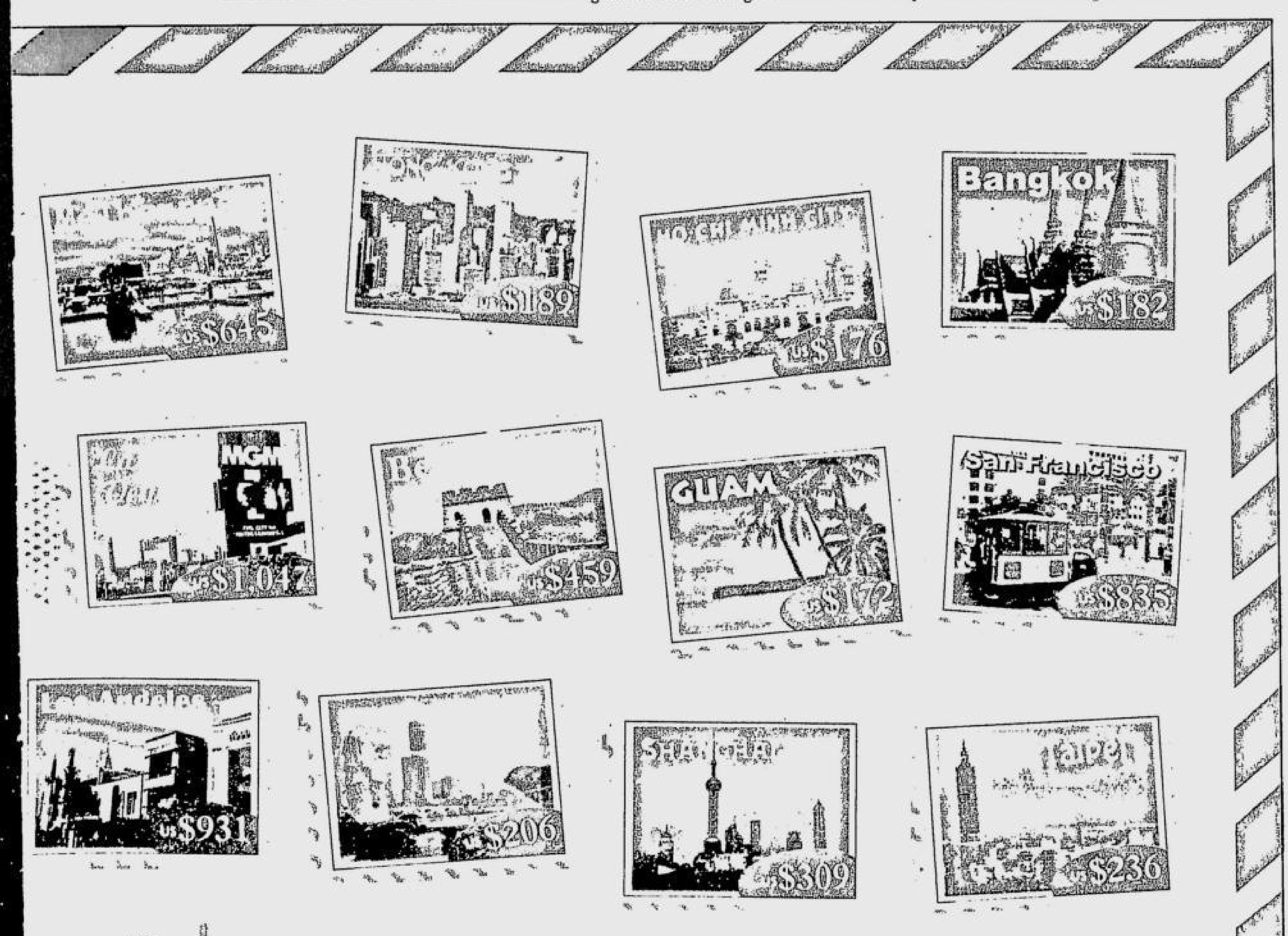
Convergys Corp., a global leader in providing customer care, human resources and billing services, and the largest provider of contact center services in the world, has donated $20,000 to Gawad Kalinga.

"Corporate citizenship is a core value at Convergys Corporation. As a company and as individuals, we work to improve lives and build stronger communities," said Marife Zamora, Convergys vice president and country manager.

Zamora, along with other Convergys executives Clint Streit, Ivic Mueco and Stephen Slade, presented the Convergys check to Danilo Lagahid, Cebu Provincial Coordinator for Gawad Kalinga, at the opening of Convergys' newest contact center in Cebu.

To date, Gawad Kalinga has changed lives in over 900 communities throughout the Philippines.

Convergys' six customer care facilities in Metro Manila and two in Cebu City employ approximately 11,000 men and women who provide customer support via telephone, web-chat, and e-mail for a diverse portfolio of Convergys clients and their customers worldwide.



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Benguet undergoes 'branding' for tourists

STRAWBERRIES are popular among tourists

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Trade and tourism officials are pushing the "branding," or formulation of taglines, as a new strategy to promote the province's unique resources and attract more investments and tourists.

But the marketing approach, designed to sell the province's potentials beyond its being the country's "vegetable bowl," is expected to stir some problems for tourism and local officials of Kibungan, one of the 13 towns being promoted.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) earlier cautioned local officials on wrong impressions created by "inappropriate branding."

Purificacion Molintas, DOT Cordillera director, said a foreign tourist became frustrated when he found out that there were no snow slopes to ski on in Barangay Madaymen in Kibungan despite being widely advertised as the "Switzerland of Benguet."

Madaymen, a farming community where potatoes and carrots are grown, is Benguet's coldest village from December to February, with frost appearing from time to time.

But to refer to Madaymen as "'Switzerland' would be misleading," Molintas told the INQUIRER last Wednesday. "This is a case of mistaken branding. In fact, the foreigner brought with him a complete set of skiing gear, but he was disappointed when he saw vegetables instead of snow."

But an investment brochure that the Department of Trade and Industry and DOT will issue next month still identifies Kibungan as "Switzerland of Benguet," a tagline that Kibungan officials refused to remove despite objections from the DOT.

In the brochure, the following lines accompany the tagline: "Kibungan is a cool place of rocky mountains and pine trees resembling that of Switzerland's."

Molintas said Kibungan officials invoked a resolution that the town council passed earlier declaring the town as the "Switzerland of Benguet."

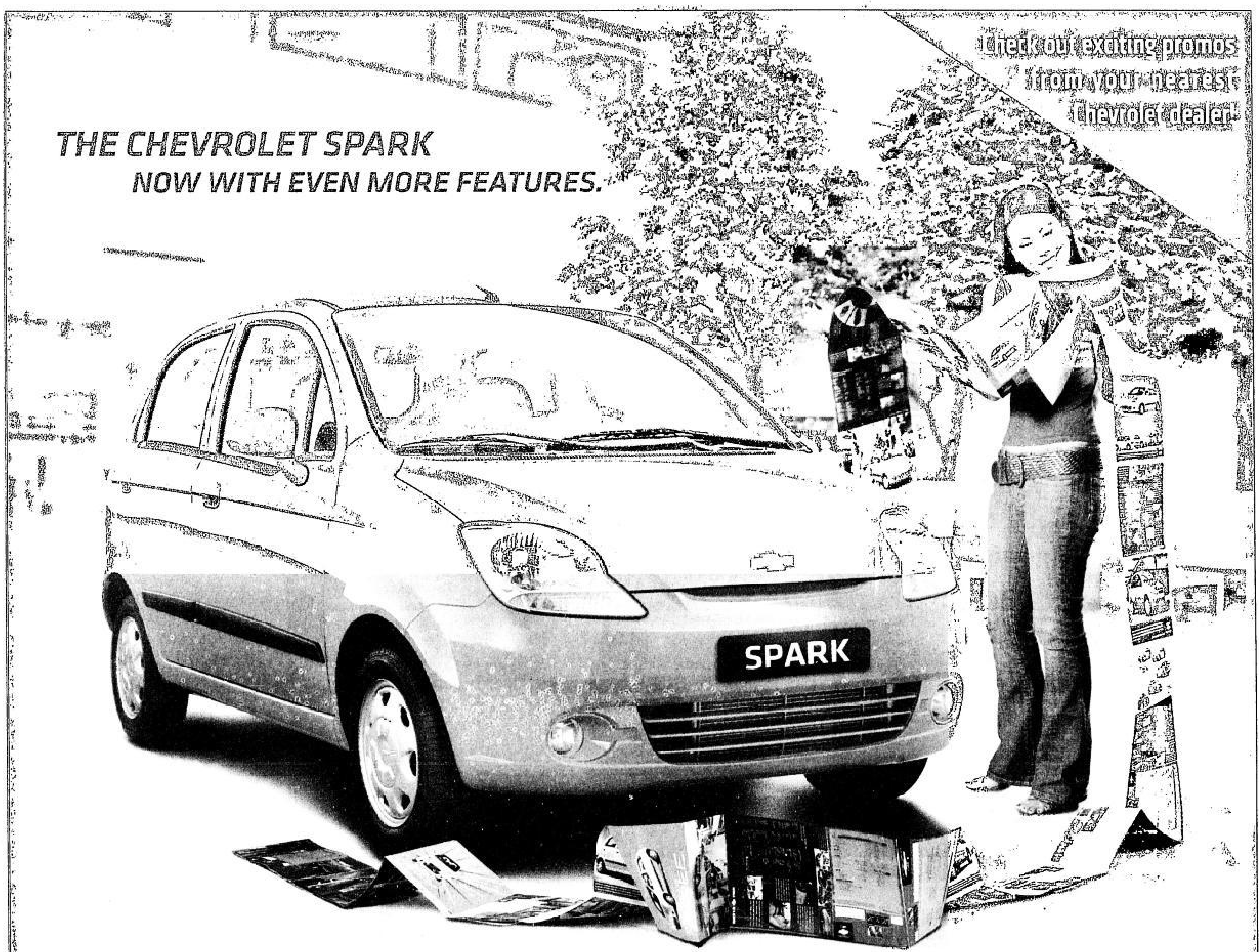
Vilma Cruz-Abad, DTI investment promotions officer in Benguet, said the use of "Switzerland" became a subject of debate when the brochures were being prepared.

Cruz-Abad was advised to ask the town council to pass another measure withdrawing the resolution that declared Kibungan as the "Switzerland of Benguet."

The investment brochures for each of the 13 towns were part of an investment and tourism project the DTI and the DOT prepared in the last two years.

SKULLS kept in a mummy cave in Kabayan, Benguet. VINCENT CABREZA

No objections were aired to the other taglines: Benguet (Where gardens bloom beneath the heavens), Mankayan (The bosom of gold and copper in Benguet), Atok (Where vegetables flourish and cacti flowers bloom), Tuba (Cradle of nature's gift), Sablan (Fruit basket of Benguet), Bokod (The sulfur spring of Benguet), Tublay (Land of the fascinating caves), La Trinidad (Strawberry capital of the Philippines), Itogon (Land of golden opportunities), Kapangan (The cocoon producer of Benguet), Buguias (Vegetable panorama of the north), Bakun (Home of god Kabunian) and Kabayan (Home of the centuries-old mummies).



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Best of luxe

FASHION

FASHION EXCLUSIVE

Kaiser's got you covered

Lagerfeld reinvents the Chanel woman—and covers her up, too

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Karl Lagerfeld

HE HAS ABANDONED THE fanciful schoolgirl of last fall and the leggy pinup star of the previous season. This time, Karl Lagerfeld's Chanel woman is all covered up: in slim over-the-knee skirts and coats belted just above the waist.

KAISER'S/ C2

Knot case
It's all about the details: red-carpet-ready, back-baring knit dress.

Slim chance
Chanel's iconic tweed goes long and lean.

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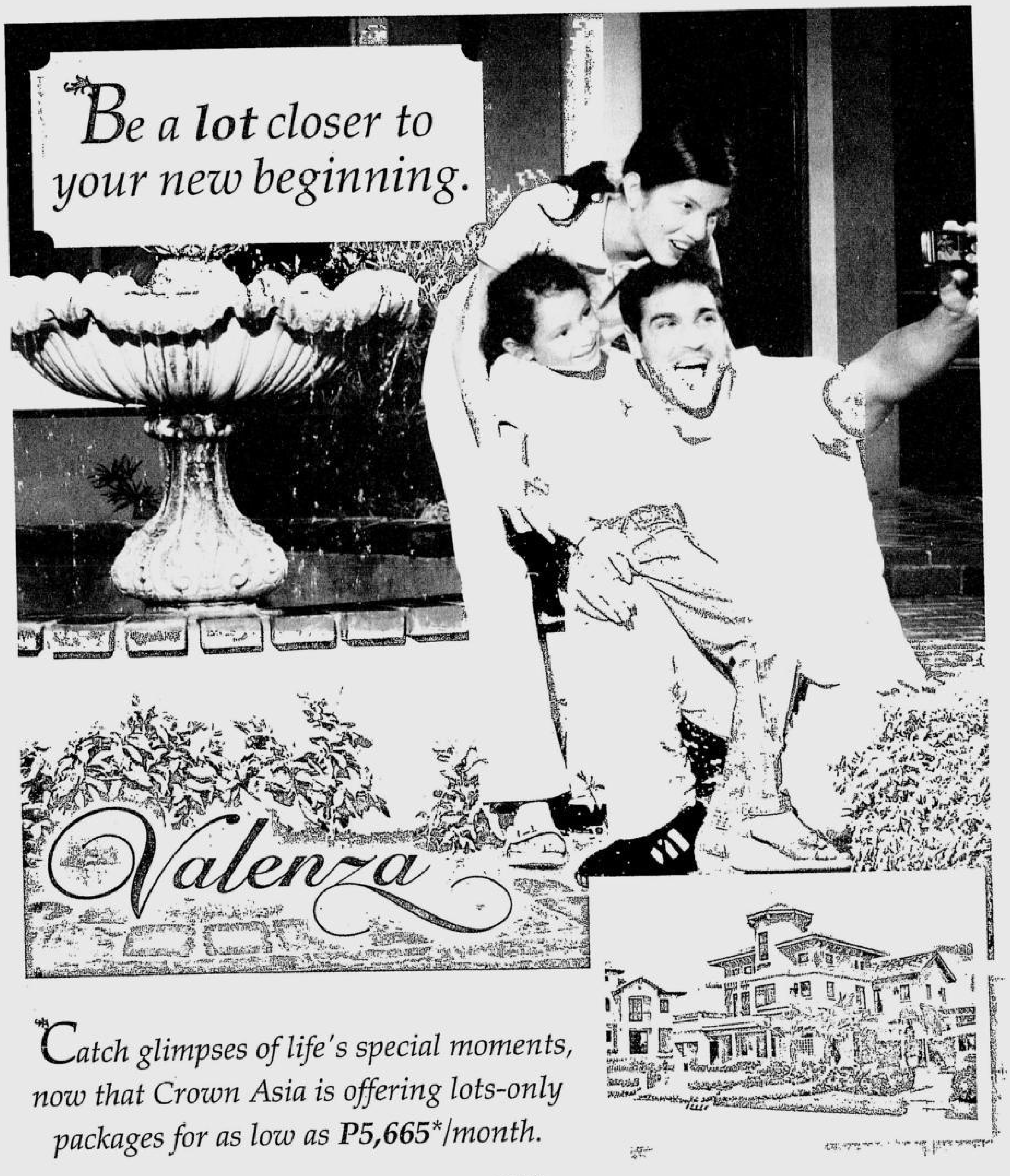

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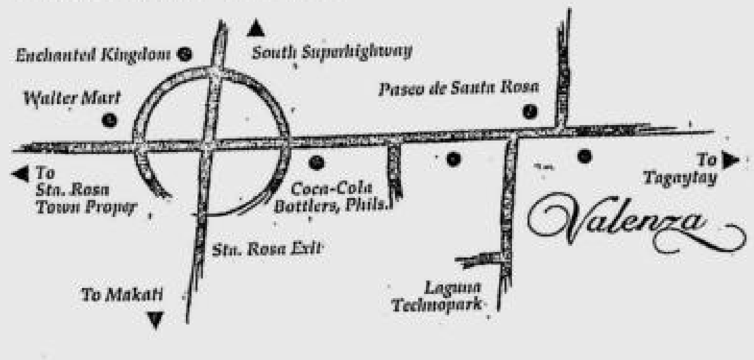

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Kaiser's got you covered

From page C1

Rising (or dropping) hemlines and waists in place (or not), as fashion critic and editor Suzy Menkes reminded in a recent article for the International Herald Tribune, have often been regarded as a reflection of current fiscal conditions. And if the fall collections are anything to go by, the days ahead must be anticipated with some measure of prudence.

There's a general sense of austerity in the clothes for fall, where tailored jackets and essential dress suits take the place of swingy tent dresses and pant waists ascend to their rightful place.

Whether Lagerfeld conceived this Chanel collection with that much forethought, who knows? Indeed, who knows what drives the mind of the man who, at the (unofficial) age of 74, continues to design three fashion labels (Chanel, Fendi and his eponymous line) or eight collections each year? (Lagerfeld also photographs Chanel's campaigns, as the ones in these pages.)

What's remarkable is Lagerfeld's seemingly infinite ability to remake the Chanel mold. This is a man who may take ideas from the storied house's archive, but he also knows redoing things the exact same way is unacceptable—both to him and the Chanel customer.

An iconic tweed jacket reemerged in brightly colored checks, its matching skirt's hem migrating many significant inches down from its previous thigh-baring length. This was shown on the runway with matching knee-high boots. Each season, as this collection proves, the Chanel woman is soignée but never severe or dated.

Then again, Lagerfeld is also an astute businessman—this is the man who resurrected Chanel, which had been nearly outmoded a decade after the death of its namesake founder, soon after he took the helm in 1983.

A Hollywood starlet or two, you can bet on it, will be (if it hasn't happened yet) photographed in his little black dresses for fall, in one red-carpet event or another. And it won't be long before everyone wants the same quilted purses (a Chanel classic, but now in candy colors) seen on Lindsay, Paris or Mary Kate.

Plastic baubles
Forget diamonds and blinding bling-bling. Be on the lookout for big, geometric, Art Deco-ish jewelry, maybe made of plastic, resin, Plexiglas or even metals. This is a trend seen not only at Chanel—it is all over the place at Marc Jacobs and Missoni, for instance.

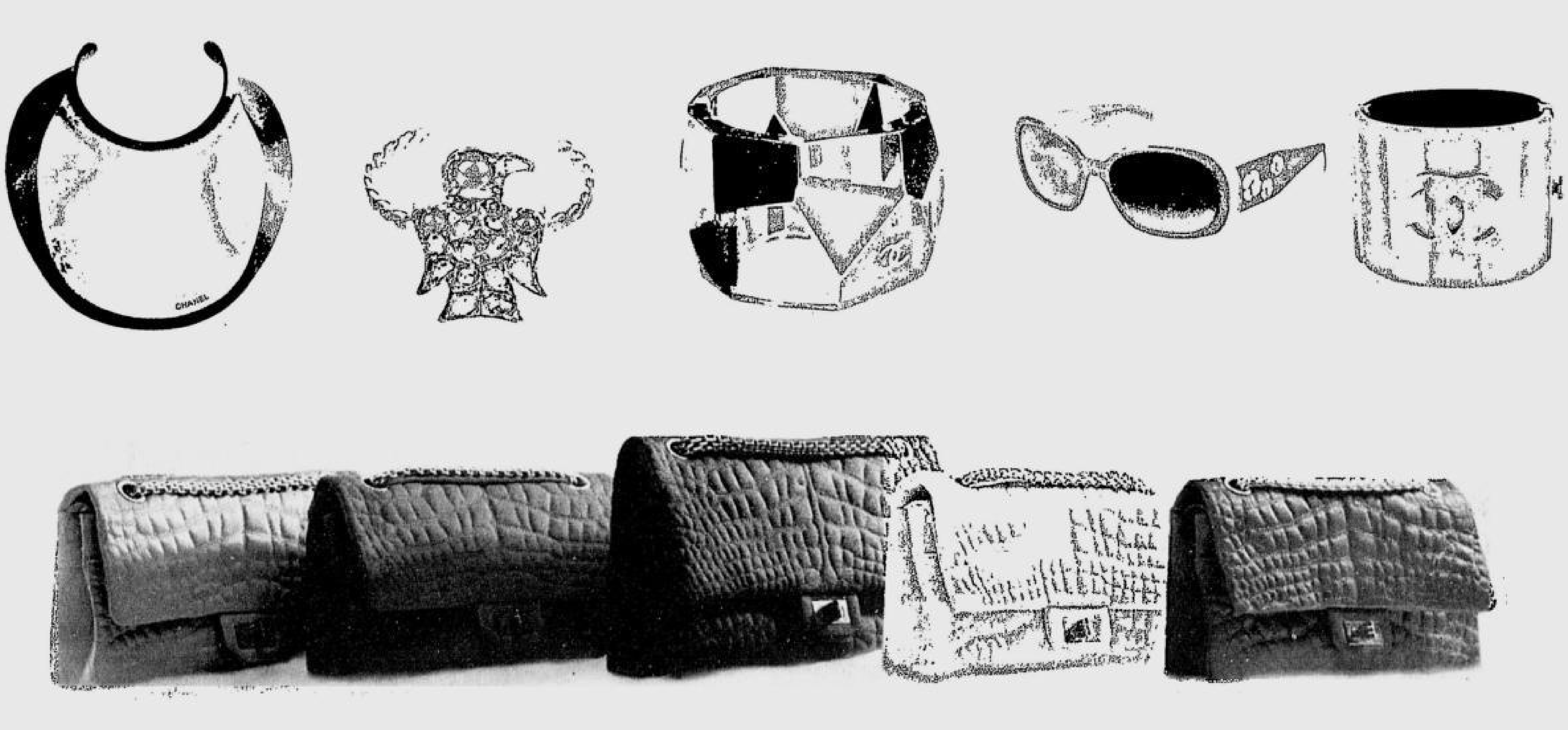
Dark ally
Gray is all the rage right now. But—trust us on this—black will never be just a passing fad. Keep your LBD of choice up-to-date with details like bows, ruffles, hey, even feathers!

Boot camp
Go the full knee-length, or opt for the more versatile abbreviated styles with tops reaching just around your ankles. Options for ankle booties are varied, but here are some style ideas: patent, lace-up, multiple buckles, thick column heels, or maybe even with some sparkly stones as seen at Chanel.

Tied up
Load up on waist cinchers: They'll get a lot of mileage as you'll be wearing them beyond this season. If we are to go by the Spring '08 collections, the focal point will continue to be the waist. So buckle up!

Knit picking
An oversize knit cardigan is your alternative to the coat as cover-up. Wear it cinched at the waist, or as is and studded with pins galore a la Chanel.

awesome accessories awesome accessories awesome accessories awesome accessories awesome accessories awesome



Celestial objects
Clockwise, from top left: bicolor breastplate in Plexiglas and resin; multicolor eagle bracelet in metal, resin and strass; multicolor faceted bracelet in resin; red-and-white sunglasses with camelia; cuff bracelet in resin; and crocodile-like quilted bags in satin or jersey. All items by Chanel.

LEICA Carpo in a low-back strapless gown in vintage brocade by Rajo Laurel

Belles of the ball

From page C4

ate strapless black tuxedo pantsuit with romantic undertones.

"I am always blown away by his designs. They are different from what I normally wear, but still very polished. His newest creation is always better than the last," says Daphne.

Ivarluski Aseron and Cindy Yang

This gray-and-white Mikado silk short dress is truly art inspired by art. Employing the renaissance-old method of chiaroscuro, Aseron experimented with continuing cuts and dyeing the silk material. The result is a stark contrast between light and dark hues, which creates a heightened illusion of depth. "I wanted to show the distinction between the positive and negative colors and to have a gradient feel. I likewise enjoyed incorporating trends into my designs," he says

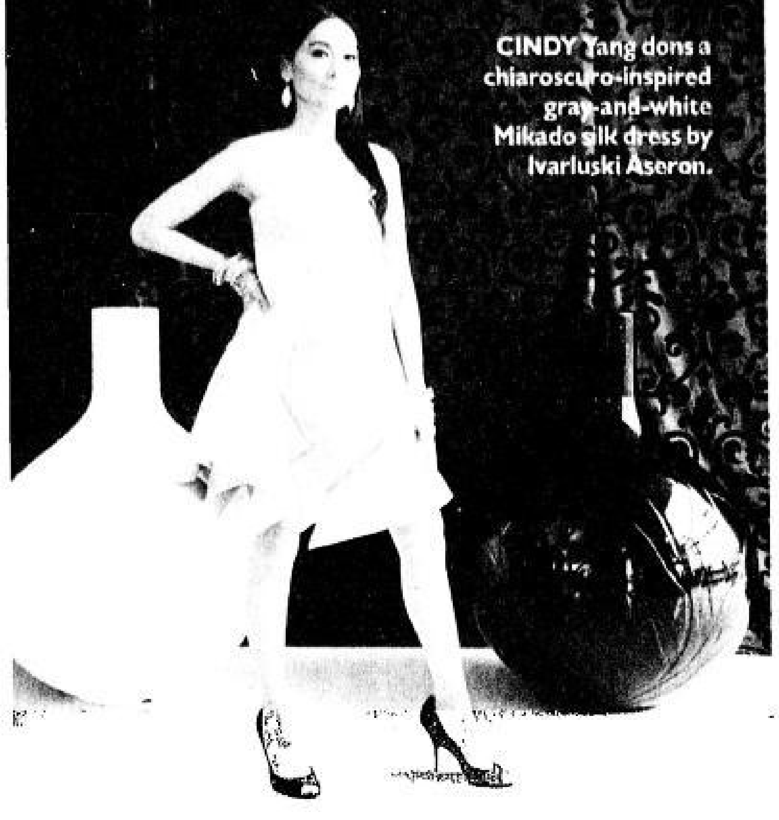
When asked what typifies Cindy as his belle, he answers, "It takes an open-minded and adventurous individual to wear my designs, and Cindy is the perfect belle, as she isn't afraid to experiment."

The unconventional cuts, however, did not take away the fluidity of the dress. "There is simplicity even in the most seemingly complex of Ivar's designs," says Cindy.

Rhett Eala and Celine Lopez

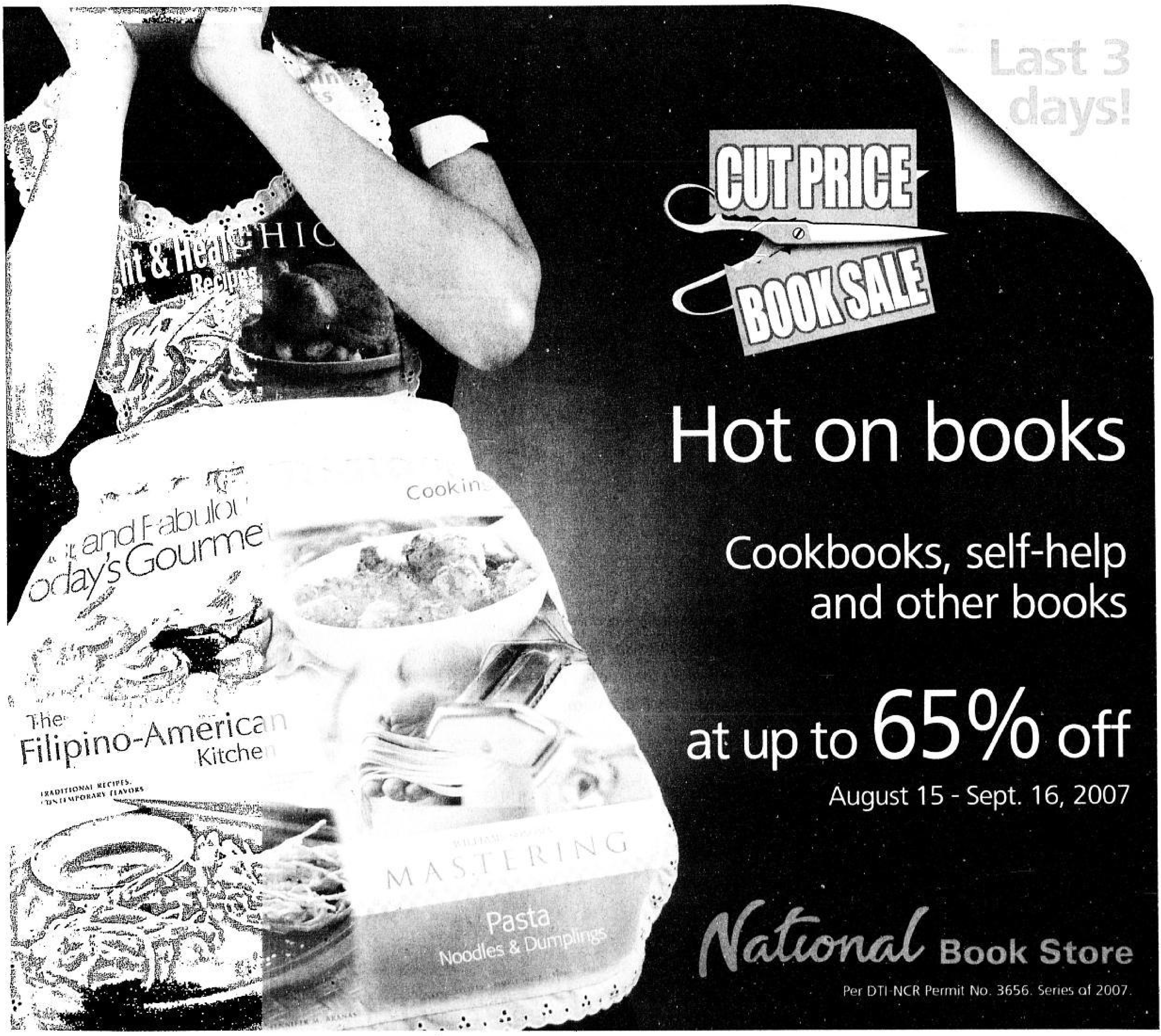
"I love Rhett's designs because his creations are very feminine," describes Celine Lopez, who looks stunning in Eala's taupe tulle dress, delicately embellished with matte silver sequins. Eala explains that the dress is inspired by and is reminiscent of old Venice. The lightweight material, the washed-out hue of the fabric and the beadwork's matte finish give a modern twist to its vintage and Old World glamorous feel.

Email the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph



CINDY Yang dons a chiaroscuro-inspired gray-and-white Mikado silk dress by Ivarluski Aseron.

CELINE Lopez wears a Taupe tulle dress embellished with matte silver sequins by Rhett Eala.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Belles of the ball

Photography Tom Epperson of Snapbox
Unit 255, 2/F, Makati Shangri-la Hotel
Styling Ria de Borja
of the Philippine Tatler
Hair and makeup Jing Monis
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Top Manila designers dress their icons of choice

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THE PHILIPPINE TATLER marks its sixth year as one of the premier chroniclers of the best of the best the country has to offer—from the latest in business, technology, politics, food, beauty and fashion. To celebrate this milestone, the much-anticipated, by-invitation-only Philippine Tatler Ball is set on Sept. 29 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Manila's social set is all aflutter, and the race is on to have the most fashionable frocks designed or purchased here and in fashion capitals around the world. Elegance and glamour are keywords to keep in mind when dressing for such an occasion.

To illustrate what Manila's belles will be wearing, the Philippine Tatler tapped six fashion designers to dress their style icons of choice. All six designers envision different aesthetic directions—from the delicate and feminine, to the striking and avant-garde.

With creations that showcase each designer's individual style, the results were nothing short of fab. And these belles of the ball could not agree more.

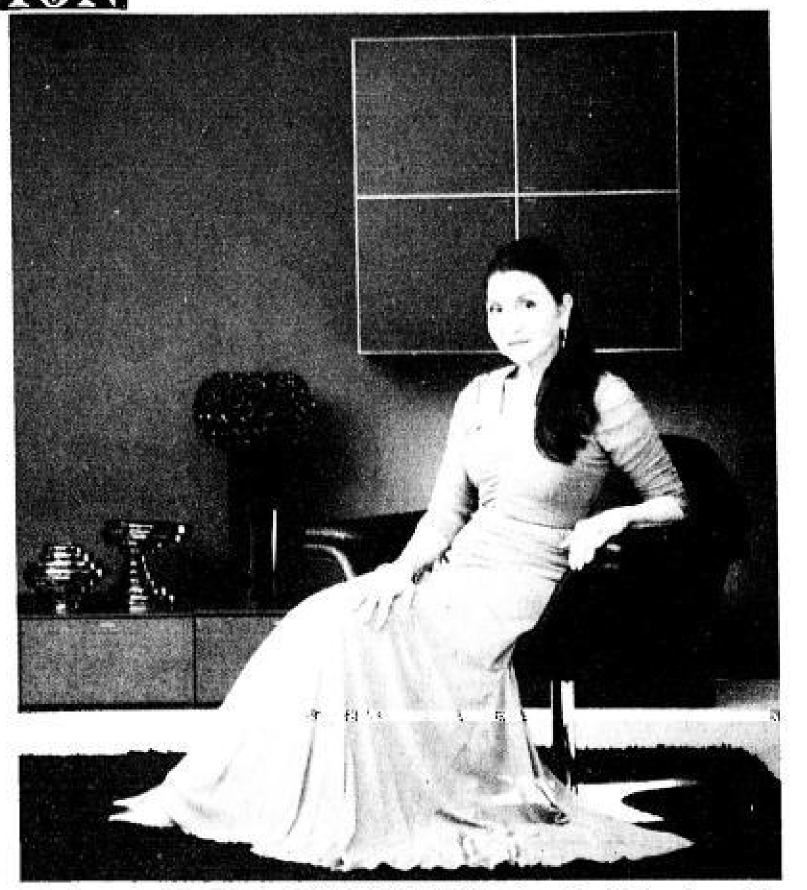
Jun Escario and Amparito Lhuillier

To Jun Escario, inspiration always begins with the client. "Amparito looks elegant in anything she wears, and as always I wanted to follow the contour of her shape and enhance her face," Escario says. Amparito, donning a gray tulle dress, best describes it as "glamorous, but not over the top." Depending on the occasion, it is a very versatile piece. She adds, "Jun is a wonderful designer and I adore what he makes for me all the time."

Rajo Laurel and Leica Carpo

The first thing that comes to Rajo Laurel's mind when he thinks of the Philippine Tatler Ball is the word regal. As he describes, "I drew inspiration from new royalty and what I would design if a real princess would ask me to make her something."

Fashioned for Leica Carpo, the strapless gown in vintage brocade is adorned with a bustle and a back-bow.


AMPARITO Lhuillier is radiant in Jun Escario's simple yet glamorous matte gray tulle dress.

Leica says, "A dress should set the tone to how you want to be perceived, but it should not overpower you. It's a suit of armor but part of your skin. Rajo is experimental and when he designs, it's always all or nothing. Although still within my framework of style, he and I are open to experimenting from choice of fabric, to the change in silhouette. I always embrace and welcome these changes. I like that he takes dressing to a whole new level."

Jojie Lloren and Marivic Vasquez

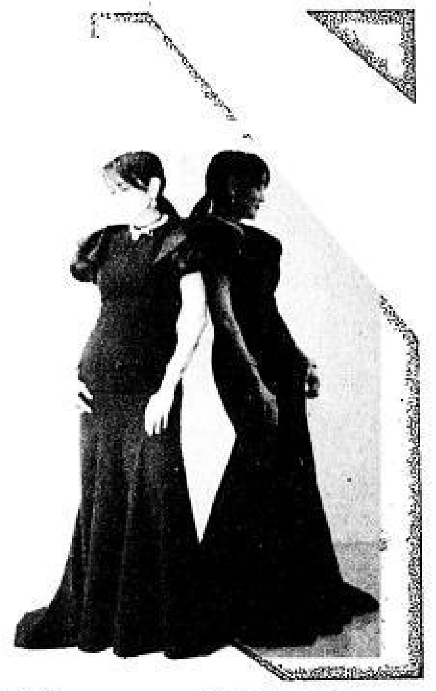
Jojie Lloren's belle of choice, Marivic Vasquez, adores his modern take on the Maria Clara. Marivic says, "It really fits me like a glove. I love his cuts and designs because he really knows how to dress a woman." The use of two different fabrics adds texture to the gown, as it fuses both silk organza and suiting material, while the choice of color, an unconventional black, is bold for a classic silhouette. Truly modern sophistication at its finest.

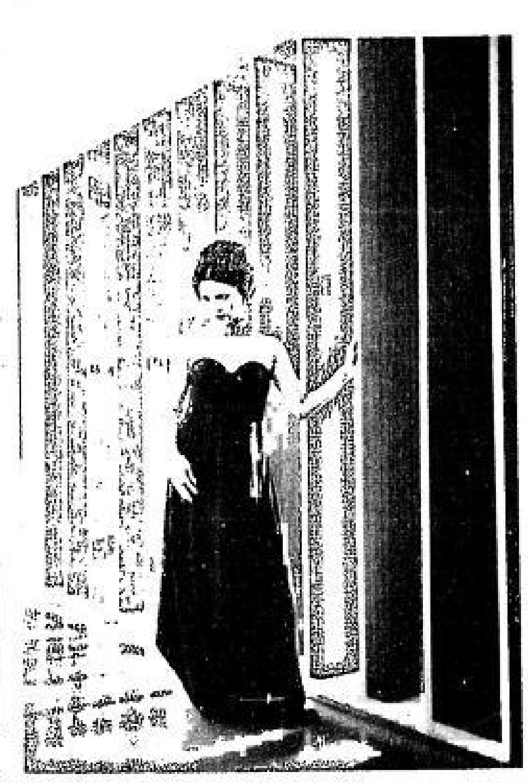
Joey Samson and Daphne Oseña-Paez

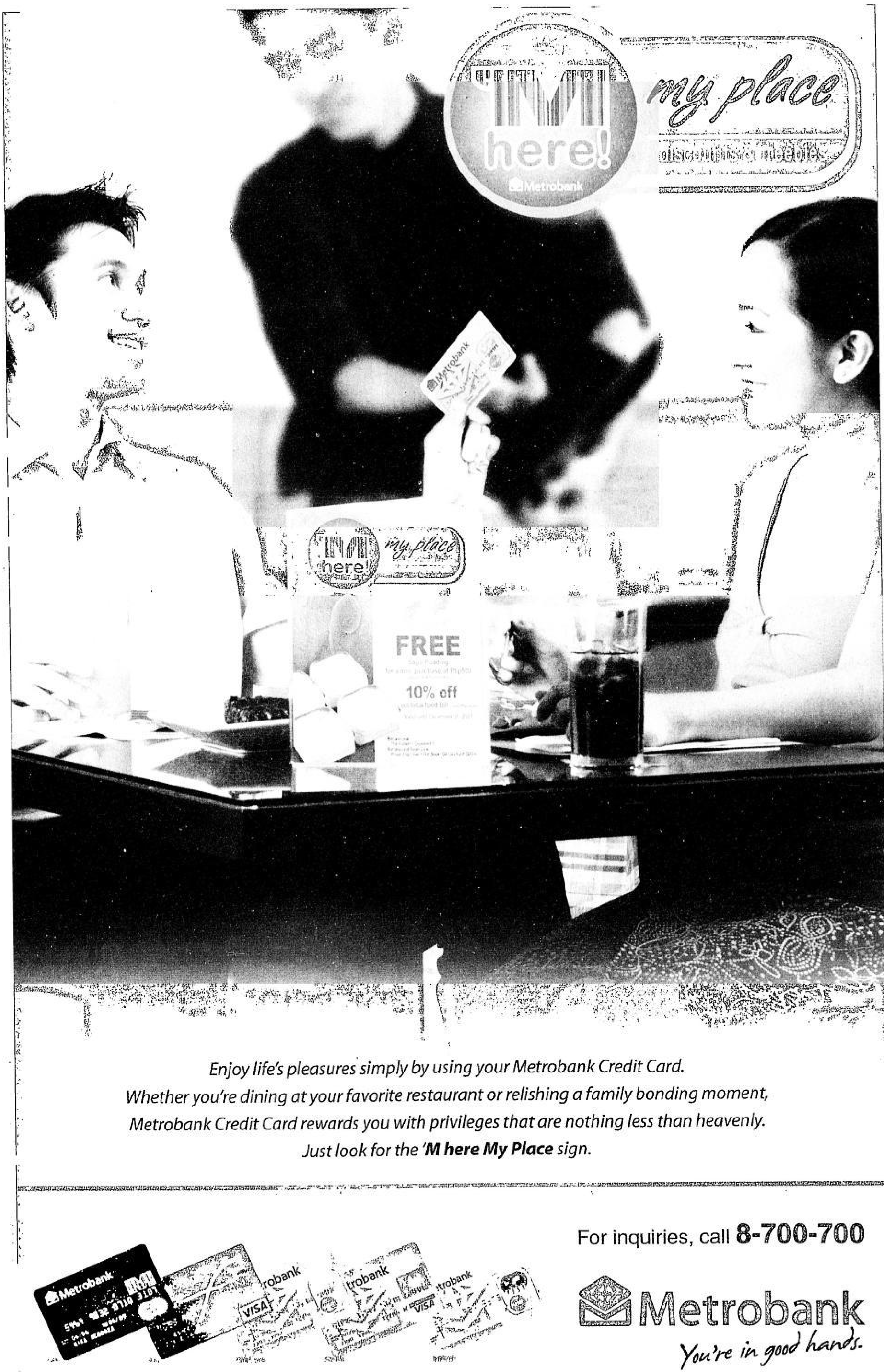
Daphne Oseña-Paez describes her look as feminine and gravitates toward delicate fabrics and intricate embellishments. On the other side of the style spectrum, Joey Samson is known for his androgynous cuts that are most often associated with men's couture. An unexpected collaboration a few years back brought the two together, and they haven't stopped working with each other since.

While most designers opt to create a gown to a gala event, Samson takes the unconventional route. He explains, "I wanted to take the tuxedo suit to a different level. I was also fascinated by modern India, the proportions of the loose pants paired with kaftans." The result is a very ball-appropri-

BELLES/ C3


MARIVIC Vasquez wears Jojie Lloren's modern black Maria Clara ensemble.


DAPHNE Oseña-Paez models Joey Samson's androgynous and ball-appropriate creation, a two-piece, modern-Indian tuxedo suit dress.



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LIFESTYLE

FASHION BUZZ
Hot, haute, hot news!

FASHION

Michael Kors in Manila

The designer's spring summer 2007 collection focuses on the grace of the dancer and the athlete

LOGO luxe

CONSIDERED ONE OF THE most influential designers of his generation, Michael Kors is most known for his classic, chic and luxurious sportswear (we're not talking about athletic wear, mind you). He has dressed stars like Jennifer Lopez, Charlize Theron, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Gwyneth Paltrow, to name a few, and has even served as one of the judges on "Project Runway," an Emmy-nominated reality show.

The good news is that Michael Kors is now in Manila. Not the man but most certainly his clothing, bags, shoes, watches and eyewear. INQUIRER Fashion happily chanced upon his newly-opened store in the Powerplant Mall, and are thrilled with the exciting collection that's now available in Manila.

Michael Kors' spring summer 2007 collection focuses on the grace of the dancer and the athlete—the sleek sexy glamour of Fosse and Verdon. Body-conscious layering is key. Jersey and knits, the materials of choice, as the modernity of seasonless dressing is espoused. Accessories are mostly lace-up shoes, handbags in all sizes, the streamlined clutch and the slouchy satchel, which all reflect an urban movement.

For Fall 2007, on the other hand, Michael Kors focuses on delicious dichotomy—the interesting juxtaposition of sable and cotton, cashmere and shine, youth and elegance. Oversized glasses, classic belts and sculptural shoes, plus the structured satchel in crocodile, suede and patent with gleaming gold hardware that add polish to the whole look.

Michael Kors is distributed by the Store Specialists, Inc. Available at the G/F Powerplant Mall, Rockwell

FASHION Kors

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While its innovations in electronic banking may have been more noticeable, BPI has also made significant changes in its branch network – in location, in special services for unique target markets and in the facilities you'll find within the branch.

BPI pioneered the branch in the mall, which caters to individuals who are tied to the office on weekdays and who spend their weekends or after-office hours shopping. These mall-based outlets called BPI Express Banking Centers (EBC) allow shoppers to open an Express Teller account and get the ATM card in 20 minutes. The EBC also handles applications for BPI credit cards, auto and housing loans, and Express Cash.

Even BPI's regular branches, although seemingly uniform in its offerings, provide more than general banking services. Some of them are specially designed to handle corporate requirements while others will cater to individuals with sophisticated financial and investment needs. Still, others will provide expertise in handling the needs of overseas Filipinos and their families.

But there's more. Last year, BPI started rolling out branches called BPI Express, catering to individuals who want fast, friendly services for their simple routine transactions and basic banking needs. The branch offers you complete electronic banking channels – ATM, phone and online banking – and an Express Services Counselor to teach and assist you in completing your transactions using these channels. Tellers are also on hand, as well as Express Sales Counselors to answer your queries and offer financial advice.

For its innovative concept, the BPI Express branch won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards. The award, given by the premier financial publication, The Banker, annually cites the best banking practices and innovations worldwide. BPI Express earned this citation besting other international banks.

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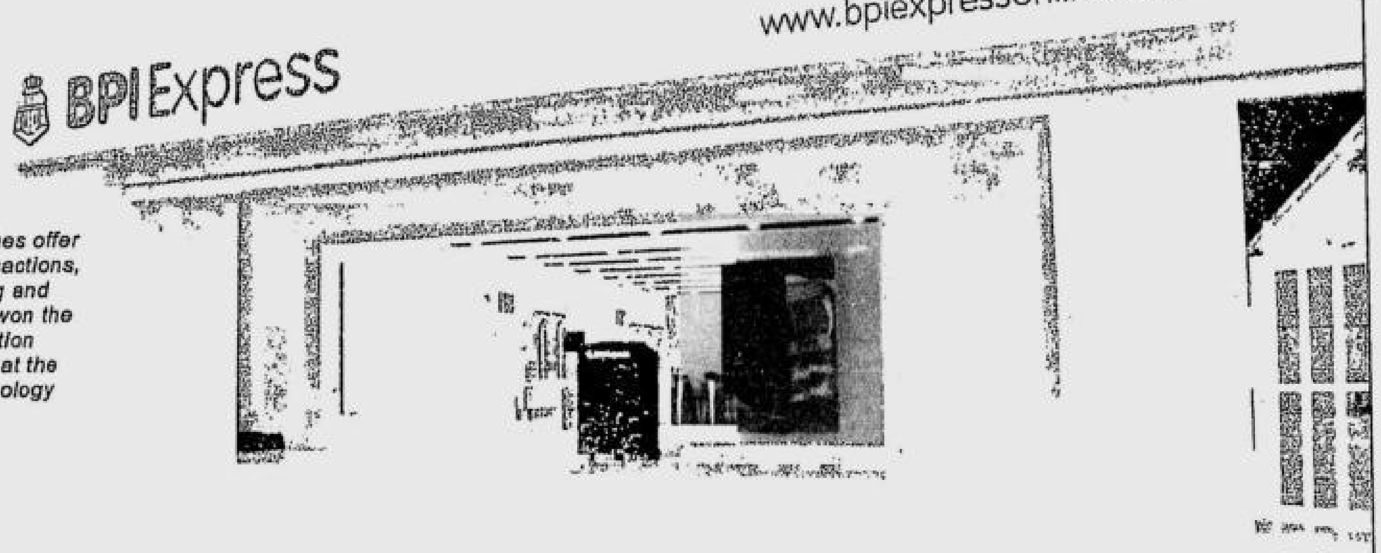

BPI Express branches offer teller-assisted transactions, self-service banking and financial advice. It won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards.

Time. Somehow there's never enough. As everyone knows, time is money, and minutes matter. So the last thing you want is to spend time on routine tasks like banking. Just *thinking* about the lines – from the payday ATM rush to the long wait for the teller – can be stressful.

Even more stressful is not knowing how to do your transactions using the phone or the computer at the bank - it makes you wish someone took the time to help you figure things out. And when you want to consult about getting a loan or financial advice, you feel like everyone's listening in on what you're saying - the bank just doesn't seem private enough to talk about such matters.

But fret no more, Bank of the Philippine Islands has come up with a friendly solution–its newest branch type called BPI Express, now in more locations nationwide.

When you enter a BPI Express branch, you are immediately greeted by its friendly, clean and modern interior design.

It's a bank that's adapted for today's hurried lifestyle.

From the moment you enter the stylish, not-so-bank-looking bank, you notice the difference. The sunny decor, relaxed yet fast-moving mood and even the helpful, friendly BPI Express Counselors make it feel more like a boutique than a bank.

BPI Express
"express"
The BPI Express consultation area is designed to help keep financial discussions with clients strictly private and confidential.

Basic transactions are quick and easy with the BPI Express Electronic Banking zone.

There you'll find BPI Express Teller ATMs, a phone for BPI Express Phone and a computer to access BPI Express Online. Plus, a BPI Express Services Counselor is there to help you every step of the way. Once you learn how to do it, you can do your banking from the comfort of your home or your office.

BPI Express has friendly tellers on hand for your other transactions.

BPI Express caters to simple routine transactions, so lines at the tellers are short. Think of the whole branch as a supermarket Express Lane - a fast lane designed to move you through quickly and more pleasantly.

But the "Express" isn't just about speed; it's also about expression. Just tell us what you need, and we'll help you find it – not standing at a counter, but in the privacy and comfort of a personal workstation. Here, BPI Express Sales Counselors can give you simple, practical advice on loans, investments, financial planning and other money matters.

Our tellers are ready to assist you with your simple, routine transactions. That's why lines are shorter and transactions are faster.

BPI Express offers private financial consultations.

So, if you want to have more control over your time and get friendly, fast service, come and visit the nearest BPI Express branch. You might just be surprised at how quick — and pleasant your banking experience could be.

BPI Express Services Counselors are on hand to teach you about phone and online banking.

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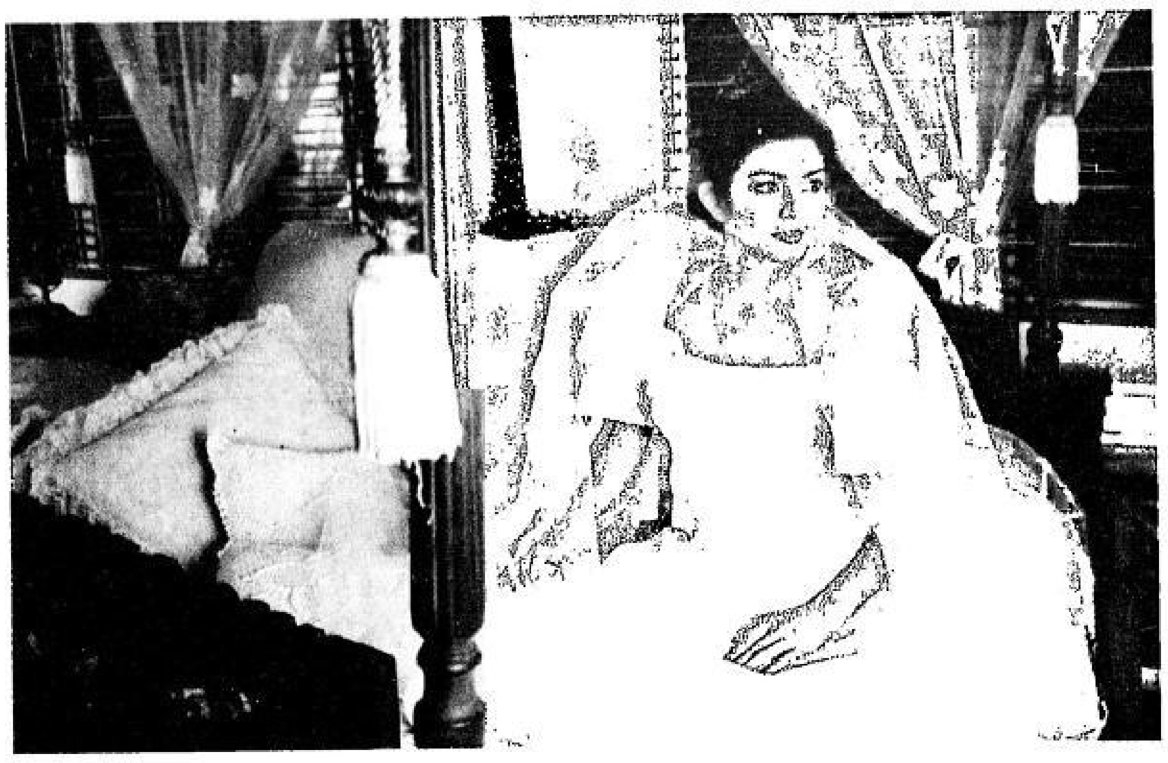

LITO Perez

RAOUL Ramirez

'Sa lahat ng masa'

Sari-Sari and FDAP tie up in order to provide the best but affordable wedding gowns for Filipinas of all classes

Jenni Epperson

THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS MAY REMAIN a constant for those big nights out, but for the biggest night in a woman's life, it's the big white dress that will remain a constant, especially in the photo album. It is that one special dress that composes a woman's fancies and fantasies, the ultimate symbol of the most beautiful day of her new life.

If there was any one day to pick to shine as a style icon—it has got to be a woman's wedding day!

But what if getting that dream white dress also means blowing practically half of your wedding day budget? Should you forego the honeymoon?

(No!)

Alarm

Taking its cue from those wedding alarm bells is longtime Filipino fashion pillar, Sari-Sari store. The label has in fact revolutionized the term "sari-sari" as a working-class staple, a one-stop shop for everything from instant noodles, candy to soap and shampoo in sachets, to a powerhouse fashion brand with a strong Filipino identity.

Sari-sari was born in the era of germinating national pride post-Edsa in the late 1980s. It started off as a small, hole-in-the wall boutique on Pasay Road, and eventually grew into several stores in major shopping malls in Metro Manila.

With consultants on board from Paris, New York and LA, Sari-Sari evolved into the total fashion lifestyle store, providing the hippest, most fashion-forward clothing and accessories for women aged 17 and up. It even offered a unique line of furniture and modern home accessories, progressing further as a force in the fashion and lifestyle landscape.

Now, Sari-Sari has announced something exciting for all blushing brides-to-be. Proprietress Marni Ocampo has joined forces with Fanny Serrano of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP).

It's a marriage made in style heaven, with FDAP members given the opportunity to showcase their talent and receive recognition in their craft, and Sari-Sari being able to provide them the ideal platform. It's a golden ticket for the FDAP pioneers in Philippine haute couture!

Gowns for all walks of life

Fanny Serrano spills that he joined Sari-Sari in order to "showcase gowns for all people from all walks of life, catering to high society elite classes, middle classes, no matter who you are."

He says that he makes it a point to give all his best to every piece, from its craftsmanship to the quality of fabrics and components to highlight every detail. His pride lies in his creations that are reasonably priced without compromising quality.

Modestly, he says, "I get intimidated every time I get the impression that my clothing line is expensive." He has made this collaboration between FDAP and Sari-Sari ideal in order to serve more people, share his talent as a designer, and show them that his creations are not that expensive. Since his unique pieces also have the classic touch, his creations are versatile and ideal for several occasions.

Various designs

FDAP for Sari-Sari will showcase elegant and sophisticated pieces by various designers, which start at an affordable price of P8,000. So every bride can have the chance to shine like a princess on her biggest day.

What's more, there is an exclusive area for FDAP in the SM Megamall branch of Sari-Sari, with a private dressing room, refreshment, and efficient service from competent staff. Moreover, there is also a unique bridal package, including information on a bride's other needs, from photographers to catering and even hen nights! Even up to here, Sari-Sari is truly living up to its name as a one-stop shop.

Beyond their international flair, both Sari-Sari and the FDAP share similar guiding principles in their endeavor to strive for world-class quality while maintaining and promoting Filipino culture and flavor. They both want to help our industry get through the economic crisis by slowly getting past colonial mentality and supporting locally made and produced clothes that let you feel that "Alagang Pinoy, Alagang Totoo" touch.

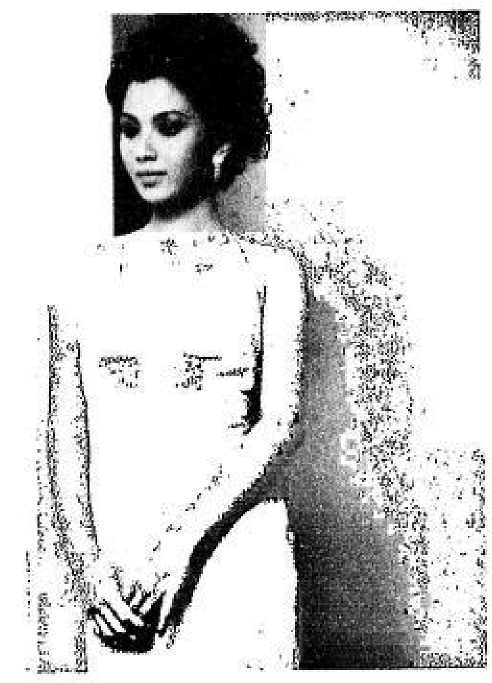
"Mabuhay ang bagong kasal!"

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

FANNY Serrano

EDGAR San Diego

JONTIE Martinez


RICHARD Papa

EDGAR Madamba

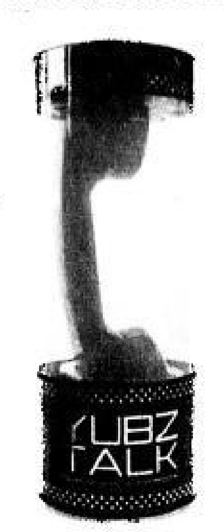
OLE Morabe

DELBY Bragals

ROLAND Lirio

FASHION BUZZ
Hot, haute, hot news!

Talk quirky



TALK trend

The new retro mobile handsets chart the future with the spirit of the past

IN OUR DESIRE TO KEEP UP WITH THE race for the smaller and slimmer phones, we forget about what we used to love about a real telephone handset—one you can hold on to for hours during phone conversations, and simply knowing where to find the phone when it starts ringing, never having to worry about losing that unit that just set you back several thousand pesos.

The Yubz Talk mobile, a collection of classic retro telephone handsets, helps take us back to what we used to love in communication. The iconic handsets allow you to burn the lines without heating up your hand and ear. And remember how easy it was to cradle a phone receiver between your ear and shoulder without it accidentally slipping and smashing onto the floor? The Yubz Talk mobile handset allows you to do that while keeping your slim and expensive mobile phone safe in your bag or tabletop while chatting away.

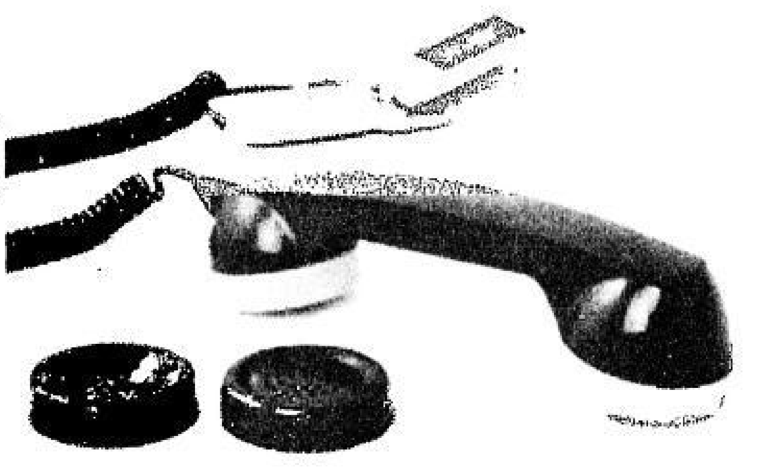
The phone is designed to be compatible with most mobile-phone models. Just plug the handset into your mobile phone and take it with you anywhere. When you receive calls, the "Yubz-answering" button lets you pick up and hang up any incoming call with one easy touch. If the hearing volume from the other caller is too loud, you can adjust its incoming volume with a volume slider.

A word of warning, though. You may make people do a double-take, stop in their tracks, their mouths hanging open, then walk away shaking their heads. Pretty soon they'll remember where they've seen that before and want one of their own. That's the attention the handsets have been getting in Europe, North America, Japan and Hong Kong.

Yubz Talk handsets and accessories come in seven solid colors to match or complement today's modern mobile phones (some mobile brands and models may require an adaptor), outfits, and personalities.

To personalize your handset, you can interchange your ear and mouthpieces, and fix cables with the different-colored parts sold separately. Ergonomic, user-friendly, and made with the highest quality materials, Yubz Talk retro mobile handsets and accessories are available at Discovery Shops of Rustan's.

ANALOG calling



GOING high-tech, low-tech

Mido All Dial

"Reflecting on Time" is no mere slogan at Mido - such reflections have played a vital role in the development of the latest Mido collection.

Inspired by one of the most impressive buildings of the Roman era, the Coliseum in Rome, Mido has developed its new All Dial watch line.

Built to accommodate 50,000 spectators in the first century AD, the Coliseum was beyond doubt one of the most impressive buildings of its era and still causes visitors to catch their breath today. The aim of this gigantic stadium was certainly to ensure that all the spectators had the best possible view. The new All Dial by Mido also seeks optimum readability by incorporating a dial which takes up as much space as possible in the watch. The case styling has been inspired by this monument, while the dial with its graduated stages is intended to reflect the shape of the stairways and diminish the case edge. Viewed from the front and highlighted by the anti-dazzle treated sapphire crystal, the user has the impression that this watch only comprises the dial and hands.

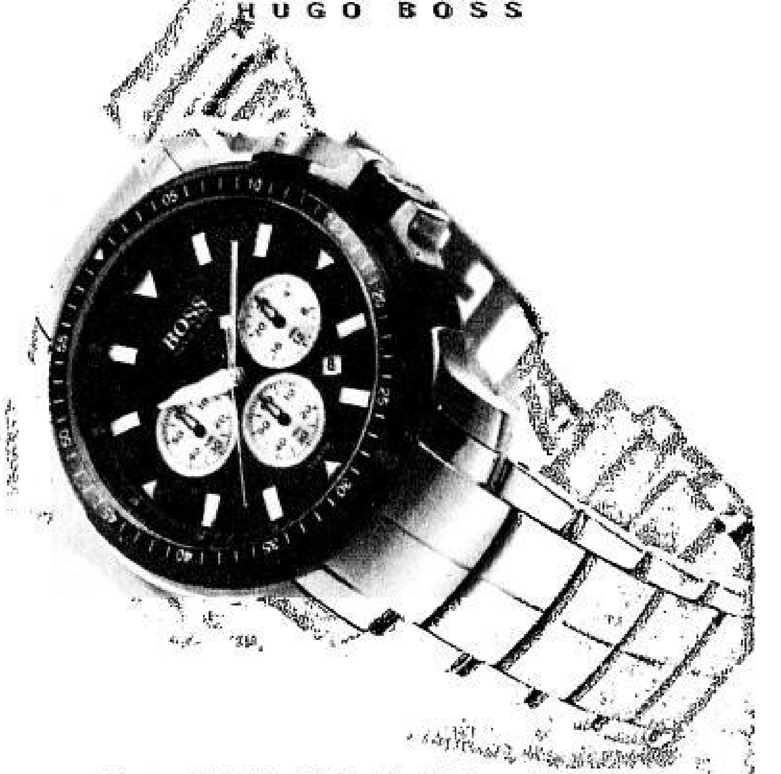
Apart from two models in the standard size, the collection also includes 3 further models with a specially large case diameter of 42 mm. The high quality, decorated self-winding movement is protected by a stainless steel case with a transparent back. On the large models, only COSC certified chronometer movements are used; this guarantees maximum rate accuracy. With its screwdown crown and back the watch is water-resistant to 100 metres. Superluminova treatment of the hands and dial enables the time to be read even in the dark. This is a robust watch with a distinctive character, designed for people who like to wear something different.

The Mido All Dial is available from Mido dealers with a steel bracelet or rubber strap.

Technical Details

H Time movement	ETA 2836-2 11 1/2''' Ø25.60 mm height 5.05 mm 25 jewels 28 800 A/H INCABLOC and NIVACOURBE shock-absorbers NIVAFLEX NO mainspring Adjusted on 3 different positions for a high accuracy 4 hour power reserve
Large H Time movement	additionally with Glucydur balance spring and COSC Chronometer certificate
Case	Stainless steel 316L (DIN X2CrNiMo 17 14 3), 2 part, non-reflective sapphire crystal sapphire on both sides, screwed crown and caseback, finely crafted movement visible through mineral crystal on back engraved 6 part serial number water-resistant up to 100 metres
Bracelet/Strap	Stainless steel bracelet with folding clasp and two push-pieces, rubber strap with stainless steel folding clasp and two push-pieces
Dial	Logo, indexes and numerals individually applied

Available in Montre Watch Shops (SM Mall of Asia, The Podium, SM The Block), No Curfew Watch Stores and Rustan's Department Stores (Shangri-la Plaza & Gateway)



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Montre (SM Mall of Asia . The Podium . SM The Block
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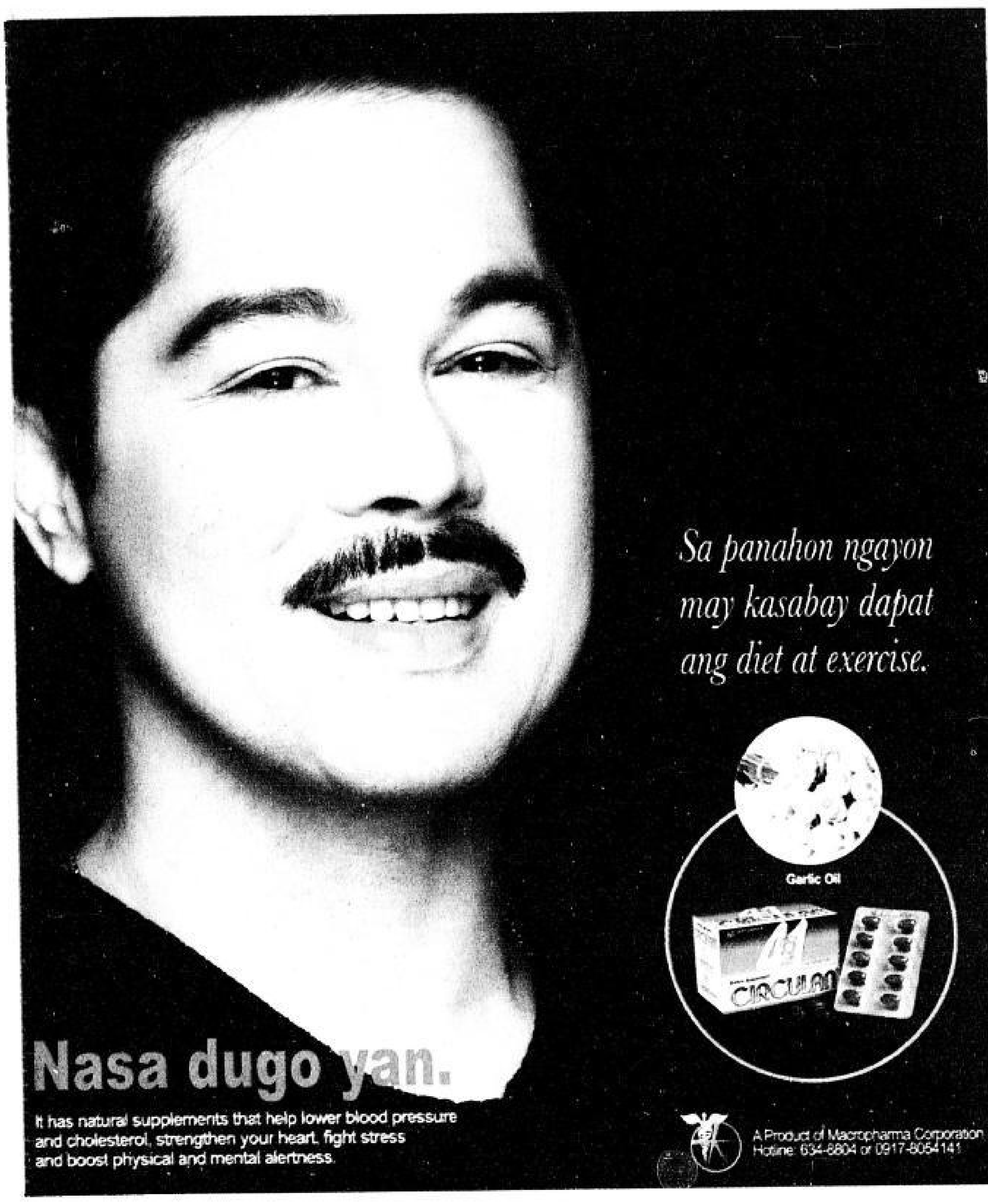
CONCERT QUEEN POPS FERNANDEZ IS FASHION SCENE'S UNICA HIJA

In a world where change is as constant as the ticking of the clock, evolution is the only key to survival. Through the years, Concert Queen Pops Fernandez has successfully reinvented herself as a concert performer, recording artist, TV personality, and a celebrity, not just to fit in but to stand out in the showbiz circle.

Versatile is probably the most apt description of the Concert Queen. She can be anything and everything, exuding her natural flair in every turn. Her fashion sense is a remarkable testimony of this. Pops is a 24-hour mannequin, so to speak. She can carry daytime ensemble fit for the corporate world and slip effortlessly into chic evening numbers for the occasional nightcap of dinner and drinks. With her classic beauty, Pops finds no difficulty in being comfortable yet fashionable, relaxed yet stylish. This makes her perfect for Unica Hija, the brand that has every woman's needs and wants in mind. Unica Hija has a complete woman's line, from corporate blouses, skirts, and pants, to casual tops and jeans. Variations of woven blouses and t-shirts in blousy styles are all-time favorites. To complete the look, Unica Hija also offers a wide selection of trousers, capris, and bermudas in both classic and trendy hues. Also available at Unica Hija are eclectic accents for an exciting mix-and-match like bags, belts, and trinkets. Pops'personal picks are Unica Hija's stylish button down blouses and the trousers that fits her perfectly.

Unica Hija' shops are located at Trinoma, SM City North EDSA, Robinsons Galleria, The Shop, Greenhills Shopping Center, Sta. Lucia East Grandmall, SM City Manila, Glorietta, SM Supercenter Sucat, Festival Mall Alabang, SM City Iloilo, NCCC Mall Davao,, Gaisano Mall Davao and soon to open in SM City Sta. Rosa. Also available in selected SM department stores nationwide.

Pops
FOR
unica hija
www.unicahija.com.ph



It has natural supplements that help lower blood pressure and cholesterol, strengthen your heart, fight stress and boost physical and mental alertness.

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FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH

Fundraising celebrity bazaar

"RRRAMPA FOR A Cause.., A Runway for Charity," a fundraising celebrity bazaar, will be held on Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at Rockwell Tent. Entrance fee is P300.

A fashion show and auction of creations by the country's top designers will be held at 9 p.m. Tickets to the VIP gala, which includes cocktails, cost P1,500.

Proceeds of this fundraising event will go to the following:

- Make-A-Wish Foundation, the largest organization in the Philippines committed to fulfilling the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses. Through the years, it has successfully granted over 700 wishes and ranked seventh in a 30-country roster of affiliates.
- World Vision, an international development organization committed to uplift the lives of the less fortunate in more than 90 countries worldwide. World Vision partners with the local people's organizations and other concerned agencies to implement projects that mostly focus on the needs of children.

SIBLINGS Richard, Ruffa and Raymond Gutierrez throw an annual charity bazaar.

Donations in cash or kind are welcome and are 100-percent tax-deductible.

Call 0917-5088228, 0922-8822135, 0917-8374689, 7297459 or 7272536. E-mail roofachild@gmail.com.

Rrrampa for a cause ...Runway foR chaRity

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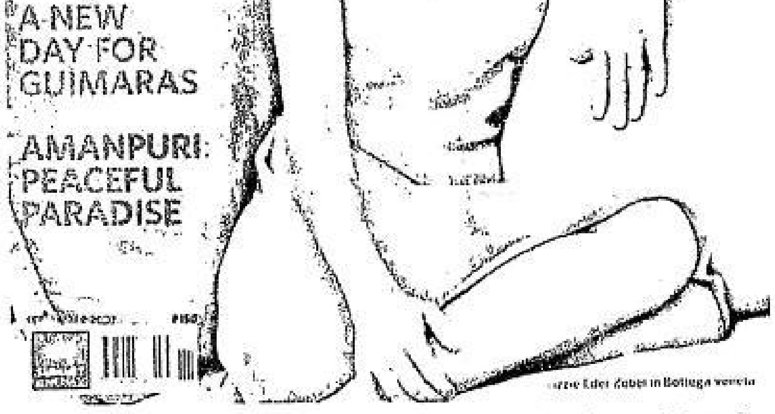
Town&Country
PREMIERE ISSUE
LIZZIE EDER ZOBEL: ELEGANCE AND PURPOSE
AT HOME WITH ANTON ROXAS
A NEW DAY FOR GUIMARAS
AMANPURI: PEACEFUL PARADISE

LIZZIE Eder Zobel graces the cover of the premiere issue of Town & Country.

Chic read

SUMMIT MEDIA LAUNCHES this month the Philippine edition of Town & Country.

Under Monique Villonco as editor, Mia Borromeo as editor at large and Tara Santos as associate publisher, Town & Country covers contemporary issues on style and beauty.

The September issue of Town & Country features high-performance cosmetics, with Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez sharing her beauty secrets.

It also features beauty and health must-do's, and the Philippine debut of such international products as StriVectin, the skincare product that's reputedly "better than Botox."

Town & Country's coverage equips its readers with the knowledge to refresh the mind and the body, from the latest spas, beauty and health sanctuaries, and newest treatments, to health and wellness advice from the best doctors.

Featuring the beautiful Lizzie Eder Zobel on the cover, the premiere issue of Town & Country is available in all newsstands at P150 a copy.

FASHION goody bag

LIFESTYLE

BEAUTY

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Contributing Editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto

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life name/age/city/message to
7 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

INTRODUCING
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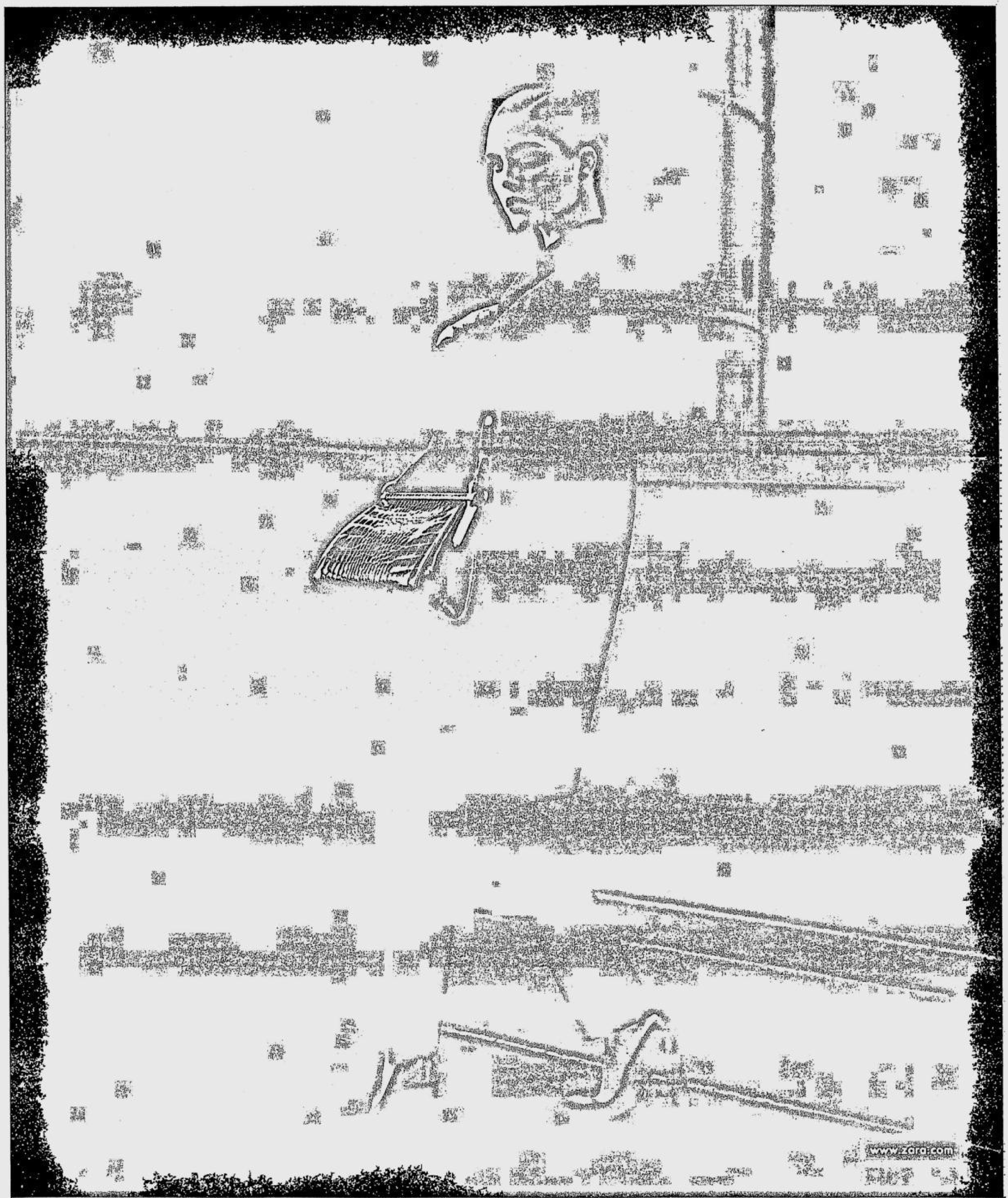
AVAILABLE [illegible]

HEAVENLY ANGELS. Melissa Frye, Alex Escat, Angel Locsin, Priscilla Mereilles, Kelly Misa



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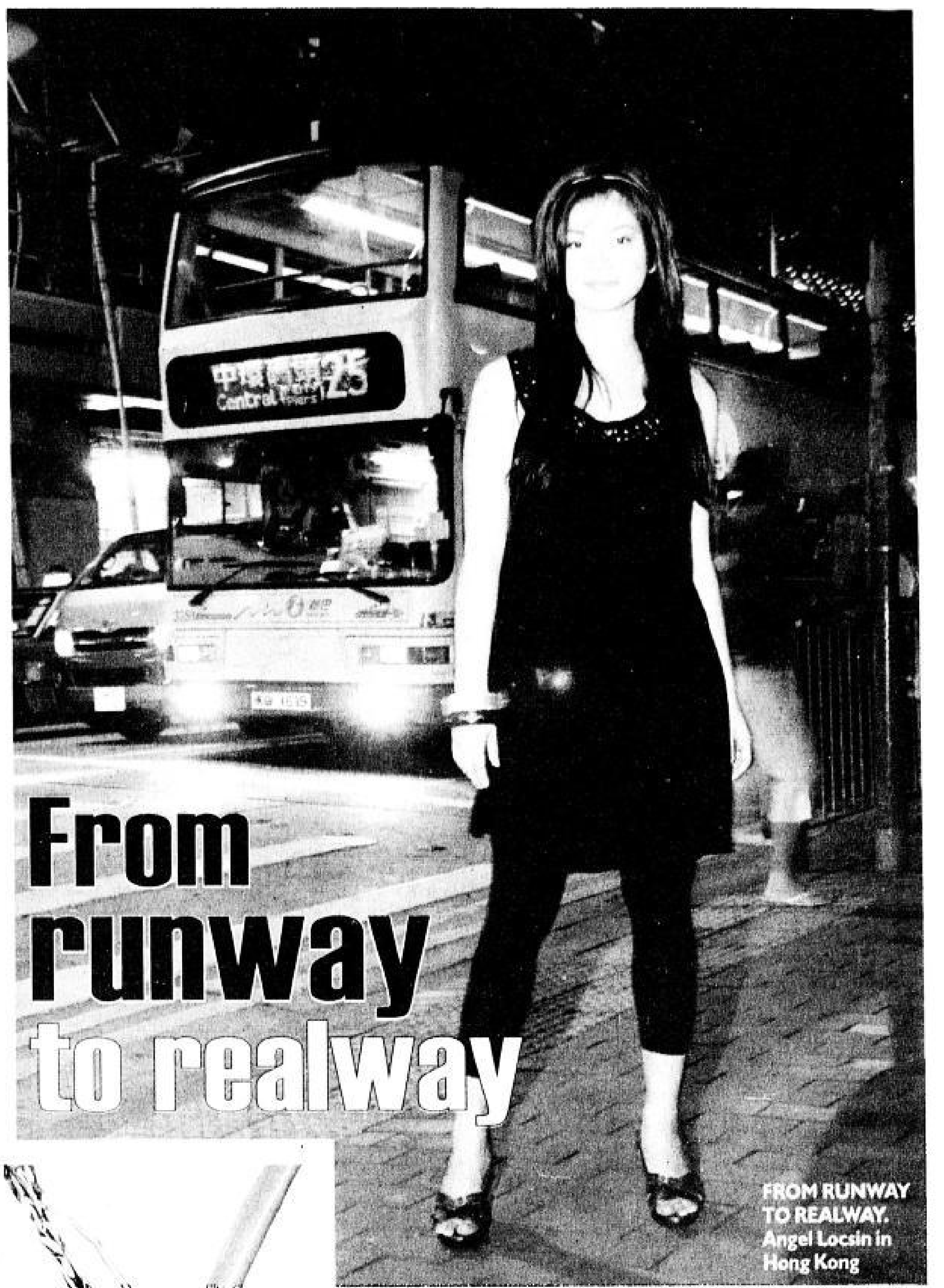
ZARA

MISS Earth 2004 Priscilla Mereilles using the new Avon Glaze

KELLY Misa in Paradise Pink Avon Glazewear lipstick

ALEX Escat in Paradise pink Avon Glazewear lipstick



From runway to realway

FROM RUNWAY TO REALWAY. Angel Locsin in Hong Kong

RIA Bolivar in Gypsy Red Avon Glazewear lipstick

RINA Lorilla in Milk Chocolate Avon Glazewear lipstick

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

GOT BACK FROM Hong Kong late last week after a glorious three days two nights stay.

When I tell people I was with Angel Locsin, the men start drooling and I get besieged by questions. To get the FAQs out of the way so my mailbox does not get clogged: She is even prettier in person, sexy, very down to earth, pleasant, with a childlike enthusiasm, and kind of shy.

She was in Hong Kong to shoot the new Avon commercial that will air on Sept. 16. So fans, mark the date.

Beauty editors and writers from various newspapers and glossy magazines were invited by Avon Philippines to the Hong Kong fashion show launch at the Opia bar in the Philippe Starck-designed Jia Boutique Hotel in Causeway Bay.

The show was called from Runway to Realway because Avon's new makeup line is of such high quality, easy to use, has a dual purpose and so affordable that women do not have to be professional makeup artists to look as glamorous as a super model or actress.

Now, working women, housewives and even students can recreate the hottest looks from magazines, movies, and television with Avon's dazzling new array of colors, textures and finishes.

The other star

Aside from Angel, the star of the evening was Avon's Glazewear lipstick that would give you the rich pigment of a lip liner and the intense saran wrap shine of a gloss with just one swipe of a slim swivel stick.

With Angel were six Avon models who were made up and styled by top model-turned-makeup artist Lala Flores and Avon's Jen Delica.

We were showed three top colors: Gypsy Red, classic bright red which, when used with a black dress, creates a screen siren look for a night out in town; Paradise Pink for the feminine but modern girl is a pale beige pink that looks fresh in the daytime but can look smoldering in the evening when matched with smoky eyes; Milk Chocolate, the hands-down favorite of Angel and the press, is caramel brown laced with mauve pink for any skin tone.

It was the most affordable thing I found next to Monica Lewinsky's in demand Club Monaco lipstick.

Goth chicks will love Vintage Wine (purplish black red) and Ravishing Red (deep wine red). Other nude variations are Pink Toffee, Coco Rum and Perfect Brown. There are 17 shades in all and I got seven of them.

Classy

Glazewear comes in a sleek black packaging with gold and chrome accents. It is almost as slim as a cigarette so it looks classy.

Goodies from the new line that were given to all of us as a surprise were packaged in the most beautiful matrix type black professional makeup kit. They included all colors of lipstick in sheer, shiny and satin finishes in the regular-shaped swivel tube packaging; eye shadow combinations, mousse foundation, powder blushes, loose and pressed powders, concealer sticks, and liners for lips, brows and eyes.

There were so many that I have not tried them all yet for a road test review. That will have to be included in another article.

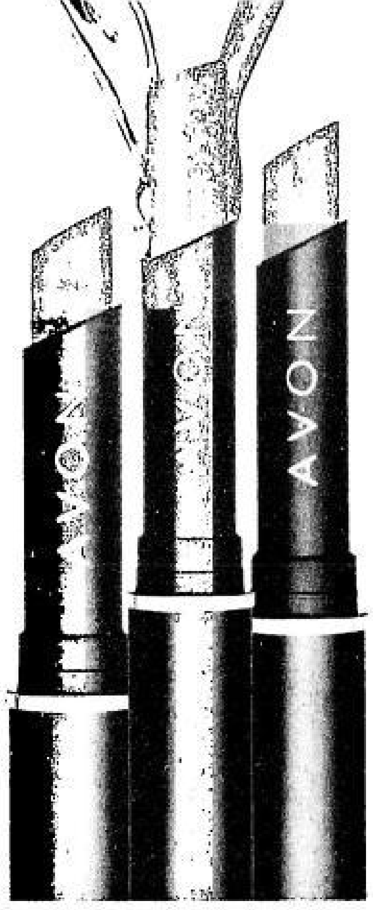
After the stylish launch, the editors and I checked out Hong Kong's fashion hotspots, pure heaven for shopaholics. The farewell dinner was held in one of Kowloon's trendiest restaurants. As a special thank you, Avon executives Rita Nisperos and Christine Eugenio joined general manager for the Philippines Bob Briddon in presenting each guest with a makeup purse from Hong Kong's Shanghai Tang.

Half of the group went clubbing that night but our half opted to do last minute shopping at the night market and Granville.

By the way, Avon's global creative color director is Jill Dempsey, wife of actor Patrick Dempsey. She is, in other words, the real Mrs. McDreamy.

Glazewear will be available starting Sept. 16 until the end of the month at an introductory price of P235. The regular price will be P420. Call 8642900 for inquiries or to find an Avon lady near you.

You may also get a P10-catalogue to check out other special price cuts but don't trust makeup color swatches as they are notoriously inaccurate.



AVON'S Glazewear lipsticks

AVON Phils. GM Bob Briddon with Lala Flores

Organic, natural and safe

L'Occitane lives up to its history as organic but safe and effective skin treatment

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

WHEN I GOT PREGNANT, I became more conscious with the ingredients of the products I use. Honestly it all started when I learned the product that I was using is not safe for pregnant women. Now I find myself religiously checking ingredients and even checking out the history behind products and brands.

One brand I have been obsessing about recently is L'Occitane.

In 1976 in a "Haute Provence" farmhouse, Olivier Baussan gathered blooms and herbs and used a centuries-old distillation process to make organic products. Baussan became the founder of L'Occitane.

Despite his rustic roots, it was his dream to travel and experience new cultures.

And in keeping with this spirit, L'Occitane has developed products using natural ingredients from all over the world.

I have had to discard some products since I am at the all-natural phase. I really don't know how long I will be conscious of it but even after my pregnancy, I have continued to use these products which are much safer all around. Also the fact that L'Occitane uses recycled and recyclable materials for its packaging is something that has also weighed heavily on the decision to adhere to organics and natural products. It is also against animal testing: I believe if a product has been tested on animals, then buying it would only condone animal cruelty.

Really, how different would we be if we patronized such products?

Shea Butter is harvested by the women of Burkina Faso in Central Africa, which allows them to earn and achieve financial independence. It also features Braille in its packaging. All in all it is a product made with a lot of conscience and heart.

Love on my skin

Seriously when I use naturals, I feel I am literally spreading the love on my skin. And in doing so, I know that I am not only helping myself but also making the world a better place, even in just a small way. The experience is very rewarding.

Since I am obsessed with age-defying products, I had to get the Almond Apple line that fights the first signs of skin aging. It is a four-step ritual that is relaxing and makes me feel like I am indulging even if I am just in the confines of my bathroom.

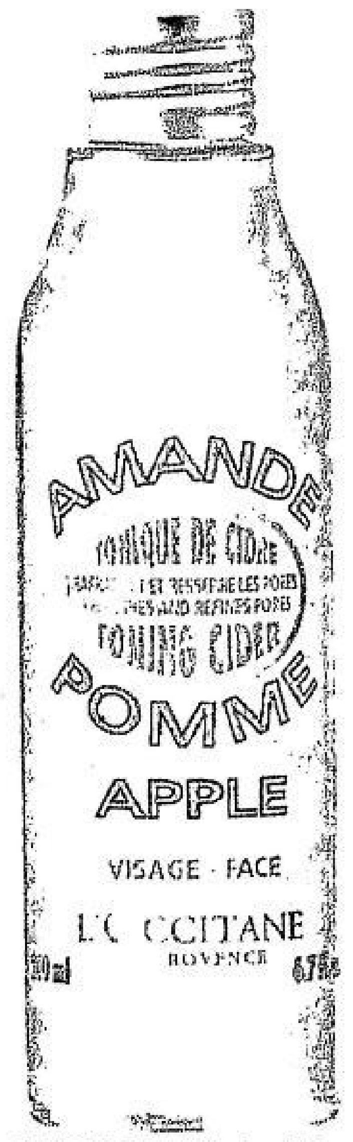
Step 1: The cleansing oil. This instantly removes makeup and impurities on the surface as well as inside the pores while respecting the hydrolipidic barrier of the skin. Its Vitamin E fights free radicals while protecting and preventing aging. Apple oil extract stimulates the skin's natural exfoliation, which keeps it smooth and soft to the touch. My skin feels clean without the tightness and I enjoy its light scent, which is a pleasant surprise since I have become sensitive to scents since becoming pregnant.

Step 2: Toning Cider. Since I have combination skin, using a toner is something I have to get used to. But this particular product makes my skin feel very fresh and tightens my pores, minus the ouch factor, so I know it is not too harsh.

Step 3: Velvet Concentrate. I love this since it checks the formation of wrinkles. I also notice that the texture of my face has become smoother.

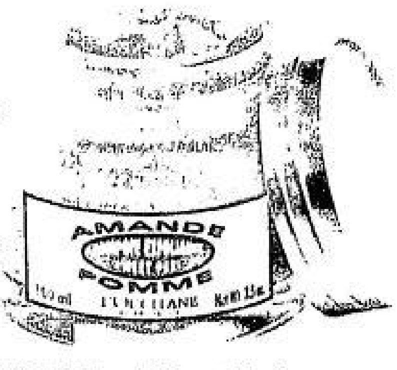
Step 4: Sweet Peel. This is recommended to be used weekly. Honestly, I can't wait for Friday since this is the day I use it. It feels so luscious on the skin and it has helped improve the texture of my skin while making the pores not so visible. It refines my skin to a whole new level.

With L'Occitane, beautifying oneself means indulging without a conscience. Also the products work and they're safe.



ALMOND Apple Toning Cider

ALMOND Apple Velvet Concentrate



ALMOND Apple Sweet Peel

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POMME
APPLE
VISAGE · FACE
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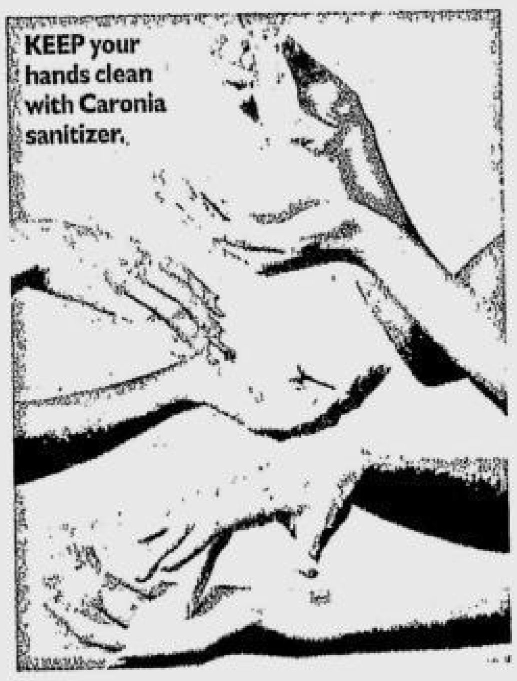
ALMOND Apple Cleansing Oil

Clean and amazing hands



KEEP your hands clean with Caronia sanitizer.

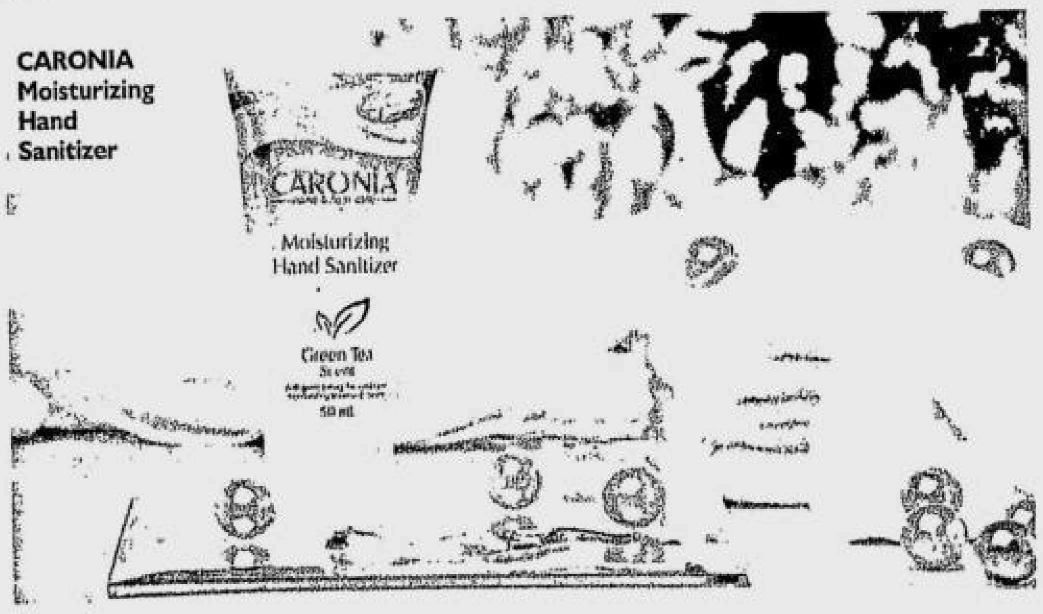
OUR HANDS CAN DO AMAZING things—write poetry, perform surgery, hold a loved one. While we always strive to keep them pretty, we should also try to keep them clean.

Caronia, the country's leading brand in nail polish and nail-care products, brings hand care a notch higher with the new Caronia Moisturizing Hand Sanitizer.

It's the convenient alternative when soap and water are nowhere near. The alcohol-based formula requires no soap, water or towels and is contained in a handy, travel-sized tube with a flip-top cap. It's easy to keep in your bag or your cosmetic pouch.

Approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs, this quick-dry gel formula is highly effective yet moisturizing. It contains 60-percent alcohol; Triclosan, an ingredient proven to kill 99.9 percent of germs and bacteria; and vitamin E beads to protect skin from dryness. Plus, its Green Tea scent keeps your hands smelling clean and fresh.

Keeping your amazing hands clean all the time is now pretty easy with the new Caronia Moisturizing Hand Sanitizer. Now available in leading department stores, supermarkets, health and beauty store, drugstores and convenience stores nationwide.



CARONIA Moisturizing Hand Sanitizer

MARY KAY TimeWise
Targeted-Action Eye
Revitalizer

Revitalizing eye serum

DARK CIRCLES AND UNDER-EYE puffiness are common beauty concerns for women. These are triggered by multiple external and internal factors, making them extra challenging to treat.

Skin experts from Mary Kay, world-renowned distributor of premium skincare and cosmetics, explain that daily exposure to sun, smoke and other pollutants can cause the skin's network of collagen and elastin fibers to deteriorate. The delicate undereye area is often the first place you see signs of damage. Left untreated, skin beneath the eyes can slacken and become more vulnerable to puffiness.

Free-radical damage caused by UV rays can also increase the size and number of the blood vessels underneath the eye leading to the appearance of dark circles. Furthermore, as part of the natural aging process, the layer of support under the eye which is essential for maintaining a youthful look, begins to break down resulting in a shadowy, sunken look. Having excess melanin, often caused by hereditary factors, likewise adds to the appearance of dark circles under the eyes.

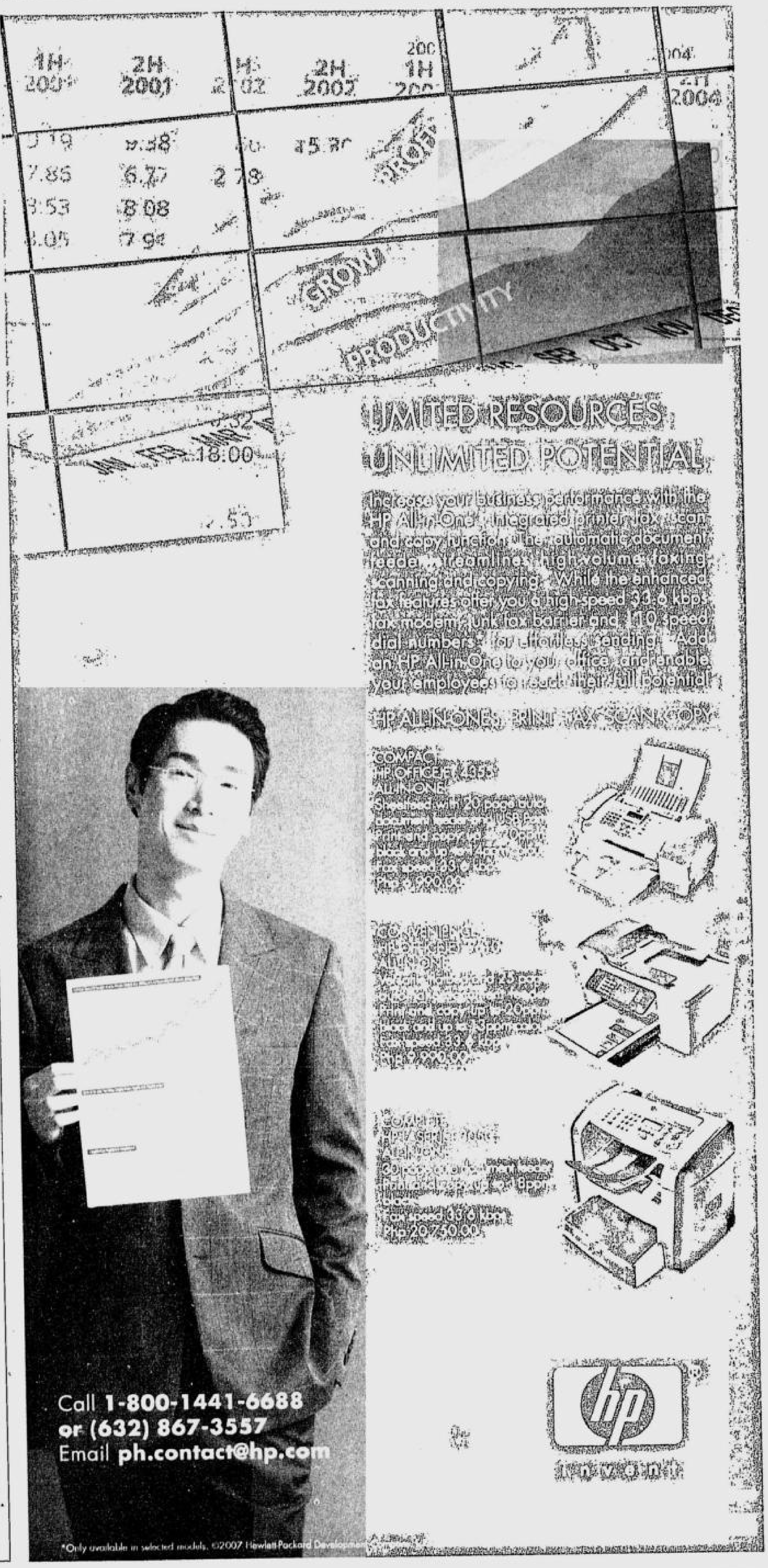
With Mary Kay's unwavering commitment to deliver products of the highest quality and performance, extensive research studies were conducted at the Mary Kay Skin Care Laboratories to come up with an innovative solution to help diminish dark circles.

The TimeWise Targeted-Action Eye Revitalizer, a power-packed serum, contains an exclusive blend of ingredients specifically formulated to deliver noticeable results in just two weeks. Within seconds of applying it, one can feel a cooling sensation as the product begins to work. With continuous use, the eyes will look and feel refreshed and revitalized.

Targeted-Action Eye Revitalizer is a by product of botanically derived ingredients, active peptides and other non-botanically derived ingredients harnessed by Mary Kay's expertise in the science of skincare. As such, Targeted-Action Eye Revitalizer is able to provide multiple benefits and real results.

Targeted-Action Eye Revitalizer is a new addition to Mary Kay's TimeWise collection, a powerhouse system of anti-aging skincare including the Miracle Set, Microdermabrasion Set, Targeted-Action Line Reducer.

Call 8596211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph.



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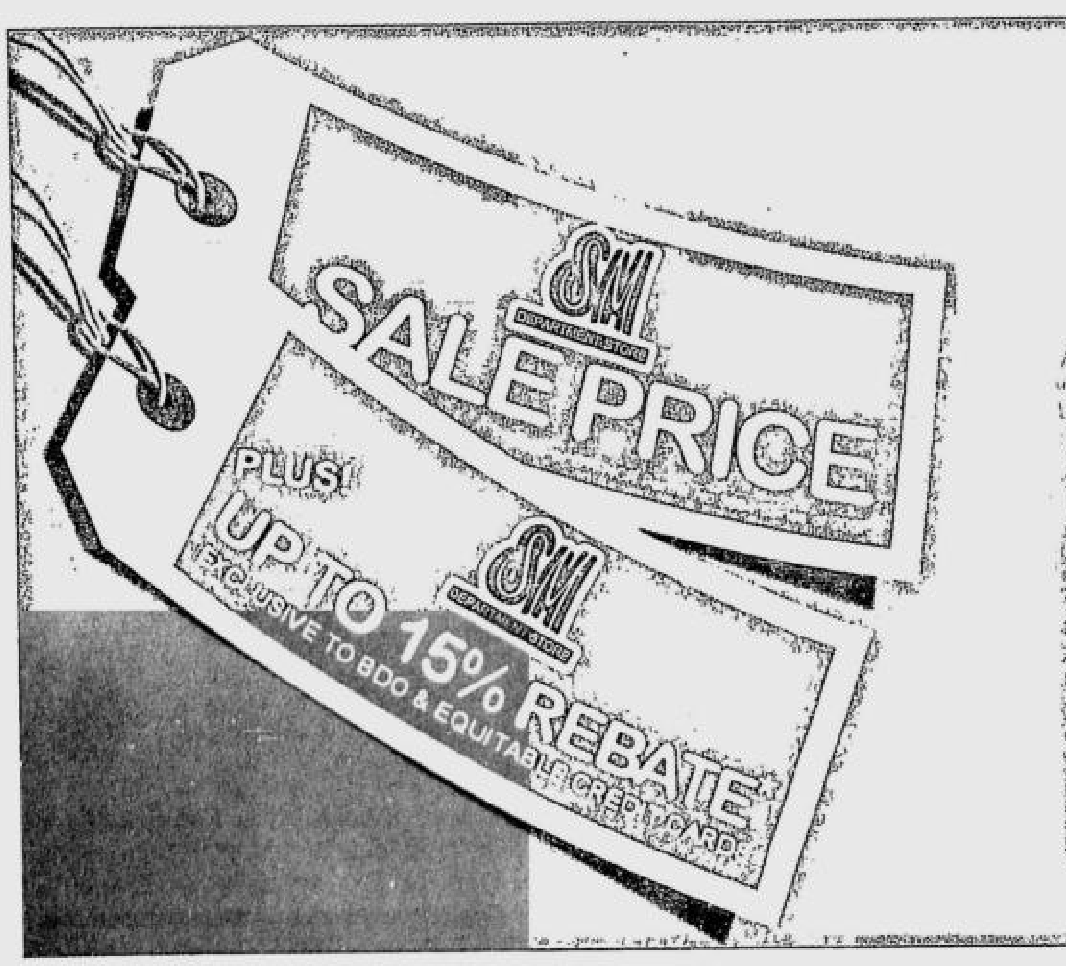

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Shop with your BDO and Equitable credit cards at SM Department Stores in Fairview, Mall of Asia, Lucena and Bacolod during the 3-Day Sale on September 14 to 16 and enjoy exclusive rebates!

*Enjoy up to 15% Rebate!

Get an instant 5% Rebate on top of the marked-down price for a minimum purchase of P3,000 or 0% on a 3-month installment purchase worth P5,000. What's more, you get additional 10% Rebate if you present your SM Advantage Card during the 2-hour Special on the first day of the sale from 10am to 12nn!

Be ready to get more!
Lucky BDO and Equitable credit card shoppers will get a chance to win P5,000 worth of SM Gift Cards to be announced during the 3-Day Sale. Every P500 worth of purchase will entitle the cardholder to a raffle coupon at the 3-Day Sale. Shop NOW! The more you shop, the more savings you get, the more chances of winning!

BDO Credit Cards: Call 631-8000 for details or visit any BDO Credit Cards Sales Booth at selected SM Malls, any BDO branch or BDO On-site near you.

Equitable Cards: Call 867-7977 or 1-800-1888-3264 (Domestic Toll-Free)

Terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4330 Series of 2007.

A weekend of super buys at SM City Fairview

SM City
FAIRVIEW

Starting Friday, September 14, Northsiders will be treated to three days of great deals and hefty price cuts on a wide variety of merchandise and services offered by participating establishments at SM City Fairview.

The 3-DAY SALE, which continues until Sunday, September 16, gives SM City Fairview shoppers the opportunity to save as much as 50% on selected items mallwide even as it allows them the chance to win in the raffle promo.

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SEPT 14 • 15 • 16

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GREAT SELECTIONS MALLWIDE

Mall hours: Sept. 14•15 - 10am to 11pm (Fri-Sat)
Sept. 16 - 10am to 10pm (Sun)

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get a chance to

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Portable DVD Player with 17.78cm (7") color monitor

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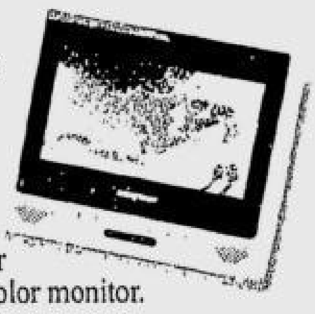
See mechanics poster for details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0679, Series of 2007.

Join the 3-DAY SALE Winners' Circle



Be one of the ten lucky shoppers to win a free Next Base portable DVD player with a 7-inch color monitor.

A ₱500 single-receipt purchase from any participating store (food or non-food) qualifies you to one raffle coupon.

RAFFLE DRAW:
Sunday, September 16 at 10 pm

Boost your chances to WIN!

SM FOODCOURT

Meet to eat at SM FOODCOURT. Take your pick from a wide selection of international and regional menus dished out for you, your family or friends at really cool prices.

Every ₱150 single or accumulated purchase entitles you to one raffle coupon.

You can also win iPods, tickets to a Black-Eyed Peas concert, and more in SM Foodcourt's Soup-er Prizes promo, on-going until October 7.

See a movie. Enjoy watching your favorite stars in their latest flicks at SM CINEMA.

Every single purchase of four cinema tickets qualifies you to join the Next Base DVD player raffle promo.

Plus, "Movie Combo, Movie Loco" promo: Buy 2 tickets and get a discount coupon on your Magnavision DVD/VCD purchases at SM Record Bar.

Take time out with family or friends for hours of amazing fun at SM STORYLAND.

This indoor theme park is packed with kid-friendly rides, state-of-the-art arcade games and fantasy characters that'll surely bring smiles to everyone.

Get your Ride-All-You-Can tickets for only ₱150 (regular price ₱280) during the 3-DAY SALE on September 14, 15 and 16.

Thanks to 'Be Bench: The Model Search,' which ran on ABS-CBN for eight weeks, Regine Angeles and Carlo Guevara are no longer anonymous

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Two famous

THE "BE BENCH: MODEL Search" came to an end Tuesday before a live audience that packed the Big Dome to the rafters.

In the end, Carlo Guevara, 18, a senior high-school student at the Philippine Christian University, and Regine Angeles, 21, a junior interior design student at De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, emerged as the new Bench models from among six finalists.

Kris Aquino and Piolo Pascual, both Bench celebrity endorsers themselves, hosted the grand finals, which also celebrated the lifestyle brand's 20 years in the business. For this reason, the evening's production included the Bench Overhauled and Bench Underwear shows that have for years been the hottest tickets in town.

For the first time, Bench partnered with television network ABS-CBN in its search for models for its range of men and women's fashion products, which are bannered by its best-selling Bench denim jeans and fast-growing women's line Kashieca.

Both companies came in full force to the "Be Bench: Beyond 20" grand finals at Araneta Coliseum. The ABS-CBN contingency was led by Gabby Lopez while Ben Chan himself represented Suyen Corp.

Guevara, who used to weigh 220 lb, had to lose the excess fat and gain enough self-esteem to try for the "Be Bench" model search. Carlo, the baby of the family and of the show itself, made it as one of the 12 finalists who became familiar faces to TV viewers in the course of the contest. He won

TWO/ F4

REGINE and Carlo in body shots during the contest

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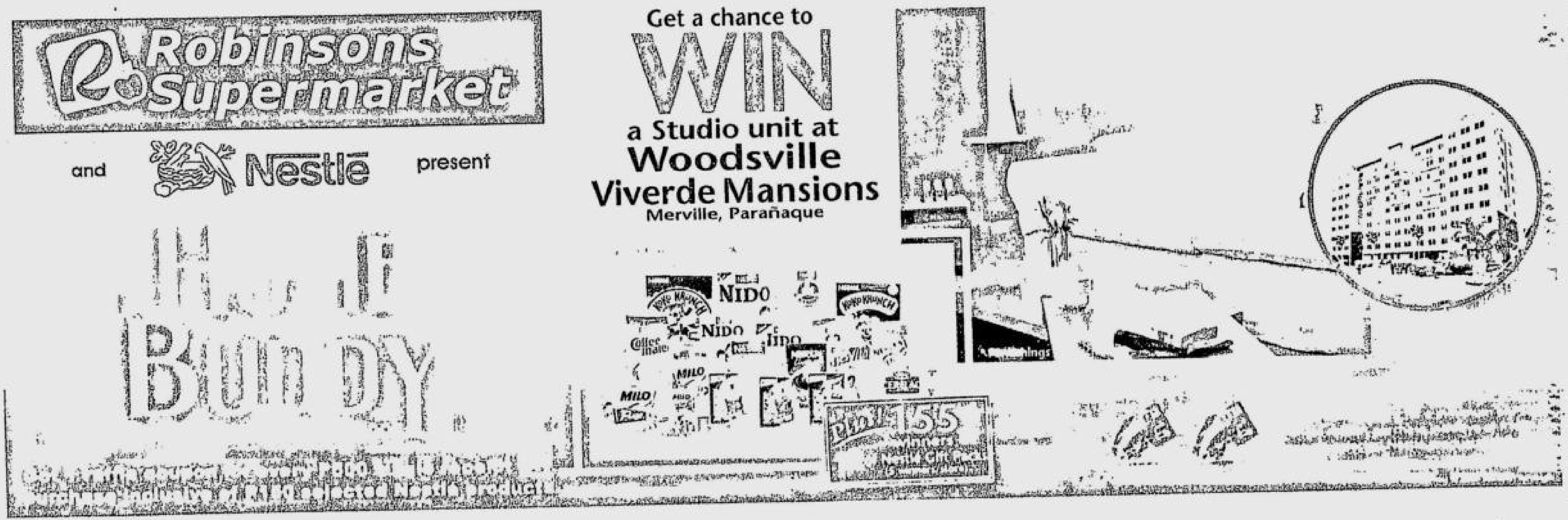

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FE RODRIGUEZ, Nene Leonor and Tito de Guzman

LETTY Syquia, Helen Ong; (standing) May Neri, Evie Costa

RIKKI Jimenez receives a bouquet of roses for Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel from Regina Y. Dee

NINGNING Muñoz, Yvette Grant; (standing) Tony Cajucom, Oskar Atendido, Aida Posadas and Tessie Briones

CARRIE Bautista, Tereret Liboro, Pitoy Moreno

MYRNA Borromeo and Gemma Araneta

YOUNG mega successful achiever Donnie V. Tantoco, president of hot Rustan's Supercenters Inc.; Cebu's popular Mayor Tomas Osmeña; and well-respected Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco, chair and founder of Rustan Group of Companies

ANNIE Aboitiz, Cebu City First Lady Margot Osmeña and Nena Tantoco, Rustan Commercial Corp. general manager

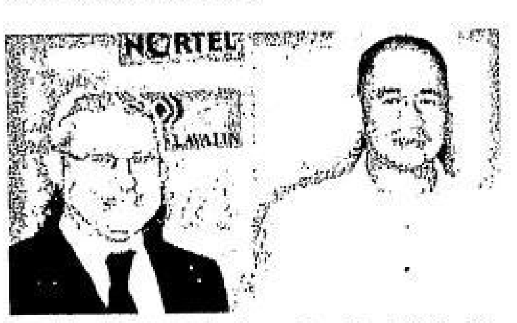
SUSIE Oliver of Timex

HOT young mega achievers: Frances Yu, marketing consultant of Rustan Supercenters Inc.; Arnold Vegafria; gorgeous Crickette Y. Tantoco, vice president for marketing and merchandising, Rustan Supercenters Inc.; (seated) popular recording artists Rachelle Ann Go and Christian Bautista

SHELLA Sarmiento of Landco Pacifico Corp.

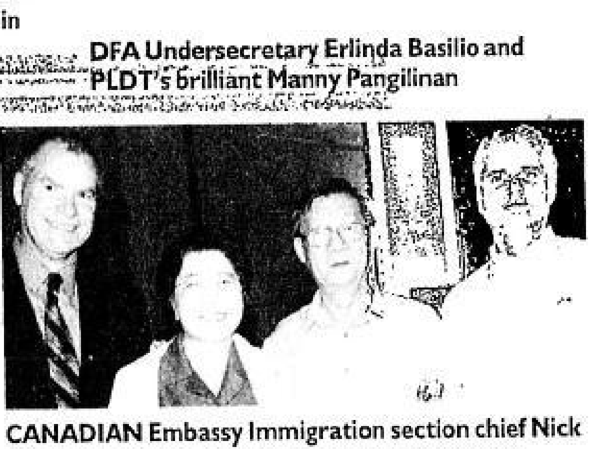
A gathering of style and heart

CANADIAN Consul Philemon Leroux, gorgeous Fil-Canadian, Miss Earth Canada 2006 Riza Santos; well-respected and loved Ambassador Peter Sutherland and his wife, *tres charmante* Jo-Lynne Sutherland; Nyko Maca and Francis Uy, both Fil-Canadians who provided the superb musical entertainment


ARGENTINEAN Ambassador Mario Schuff representing the dean of the diplo-corp in Cosmo Manille and Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino

DFA Undersecretary Erlinda Basilio and PLDT's brilliant Manny Pangilinan

FORMER Prime Minister Cesar Virata, Amina Rasul and CID program officer Myrna Jarillas


CANADIAN Embassy Immigration section chief Nick Oosterveen; Anna Lee and Canadian Honorary Consul in Cebu Robert Lee; and embassy counselor Shaun Hughes

IT WAS A DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR **Rikki Jimenez**, fashion designer-turned-lifestyle columnist and philanthropist, when he celebrated his birthday and the third year of his Rikki J and Friends Foundation Inc. (RJFFI).

The dinner, held at the Shang Palace of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, had some of the brightest and prettiest women in the country today attending, dahlings.

The celebrator's choice foods were superbly prepared by the Shang Palace top chefs, from the deep-fried prawns with orange sauce to the deep-fried garoupa served with light soy sauce, and braised broccoli with mushrooms in dried scallop sauce.

The RJFFI, *palanggas*, is composed of Harrison Plaza and Belco Marketing's **Juliana "Belen" Lovina Ticzon-Martel** as chair; the celebrator himself as president; ABS-CBN executive **Maria Rosario "Charo" N. Santos-Concio**, vice president; lawyer **Eugenia "Ningning" Muñoz**, secretary; and socio-civic leader **Rebecca "Vicki" Jimenez-Lagdameo**, treasurer.

Most of the chitchat that night centered on Rikki's foundation, most of whose officers were present, except Martel, who was in New York with her husband, mall magnate Don **Antonio V. Martel Jr.**, and daughter **Antonia.**

Jimenez announced that this year, the foundation would be offering medical and dental checkups to some 300 residents of the remote areas of Barangay Talaan, Sariaya, and Barangay Ilusong, Plaridel, both in Quezon province.

RJFFI also honored its chairperson, Martel, and her sister **Ophie Ticzon Clemente**, for supporting the projects of the foundation, *palanggas*.

The get-together was hosted by witty TV director **Oskar Atendido**, no less.

Knowing Rikki, he just had to have some gorgeous faces around, such as former Miss International and former tourism secretary **Gemma Cruz-Araneta**; former Bb. Pilipinas-Universe **Myrna Borromeo**; former Miss RP **Evangeline Pascual**; former Mutya ng Pilipinas **Lorraine Schuck**; and former Miss Philippines-Earth **Cathy Untalan.**

Society figures in attendance included Rikki's close pal, **Patrick O'Neill**, and PAL's **Yvette Grant** and **Aida Posadas**, who breezed in late-ish with fashion designer **Dobie Aranda**.

It was a great night with loads of laughs, great food and pledges of support for the RJFFI, dahlings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

New Cebu supermart

Expansion is definitely a sign of success, *n'est ces pas, palanggas*. So it was no surprise at all when Cebu's retail scene became more exciting when Rustan's Supermarket, *natch*, celebrated the grand opening of its latest branch at the basement level, Expansion Building, Ayala Center-Cebu. The colorful motif was a super-fun Caribbean-inspired bash attended by the Queen City of the South's hotshot namedroppables, dahlings.

The tons of invitees couldn't get enough of the splendid performances by singers **Rachelle Ann Go** and **Christian Bautista**, no less, and the University of Cebu Dance Troupe. The scrumptious menu was prepared by Café Laguna and Lemon Grass. A private shopping spree was the big come-on of the happening, *palanggas*, while the guests loaded up on a variety of the freshest food and imported items and local products and organic treats.

Hailing the arrival of Rustan's Supermarket were Mayor **Tommy Osmeña** with his popular wife **Margot**, **Teresin Mendezona**, Wrigley's **Karen Rodas**, Alcordo Advertising's **Meanne Solomon**, **Pel Tecson** of P&G Phils., Mehitable Furniture CEO **Tamsin Booth**, Dranix general manager **Ray Yap**, Ayala Malls VP **Rowena Tomeldan**, Phil. Wine Merchants' popular **Ralph Joseph**, Monde Nissin's **Sammy Sih**, Energizer managing director **Esteban Vorbeck**, Unilever's **Karl Cotaoco** and San Miguel's **Gogo Stevert**, among so many others, *palanggas*.

Naturellement, the Rustan Group of Companies was led in the launching by its founder and chair, Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.**; Rustan Commercial Corp. president **Bienvenido Tantoco Jr.**, **Nena V. Tantoco**, and the powerhouse couple of **Donnie** and **Crickette Tantoco**, president and vice president for marketing and merchandising of Rustan's Supercenters Inc., no less.

Celebrating Canada

Over 500 invitees caught a glimpse of Canada when its embassy in Manila celebrated Canada Day with a super fun-filled bash.

The Grand Ballroom of the *tres* popular Renaissance Makati Hotel was the perfect place for providing people the "Canadian experience." Swirls of red and white, from the ceiling décor to the flowers and even the lights, conjured images of the colors of the Canadian flag, *palanggas*.

Capping the fun experience was the Canadian-themed menu, *naturellement* the excellent salmon and beef, the superb wine, and the to-die-for calorific desserts, made from maple syrup.

Fil-Canadian **Nyko Maca**, runner-up in ABS-CBN's "Star in a Million" and upcoming versatile performer, was master of ceremonies. She provided excellent live musical entertainment, while the fantastic Toronto Canada Chorus sang both anthems of the Philippines and Canada, to loud applause, *palanggas*.

Canadian Ambassador **Peter Sutherland**, who is sadly about to end his term, asked his wife **Jo-Lynne** to join him onstage as he praised "the significant people-to-people relations between Canada and the Philippines." He said Canada's over 400,000 citizens and residents of Philippine origin are assets both to their country of birth and their present home country.

He also introduced **Riza Santos**, Miss Earth-Canada, "who is a fine example of Filipino-Canadian heritage."

For her part, Department of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary **Erlinda Basilio** took note of sustainable development programs assisted by Canada, *palanggas*.

SONNY Yu, Nercy Jane Torilla, vice president, Corp. Planning Management Services; and Rico Tantoco, president, Rustan's Commercial Corp.

PIA Mantecon, Mary Anne Arculli, Janine Taylor de Padua, Christine Pelaez, Tamsin Booth, Mehitable Furniture CEO; Yu, Lelet Heredia and Agnes Huettel

New watch corner in Alabang mall

BULGARI RECENTLY opened its new Watchcorner at Rustan's Department Store in Alabang Town Center.

The intimate celebration gathered the jewelry house's clients and friends to view the latest timepieces.

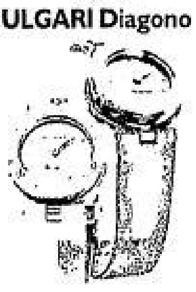
They enjoyed cocktails courtesy of Penfolds Shiraz Cabernet and Chardonnay plus delightful bites from Pepato, as well as the smooth and uptempo jazz sounds of Vince Lahorra.

The Watchcorner is designed to look like an "identity corner," a miniature version of Bulgari's boutiques in Greenbelt 4 and 6750, following the visual concept adapted by all Bulgari stores worldwide.

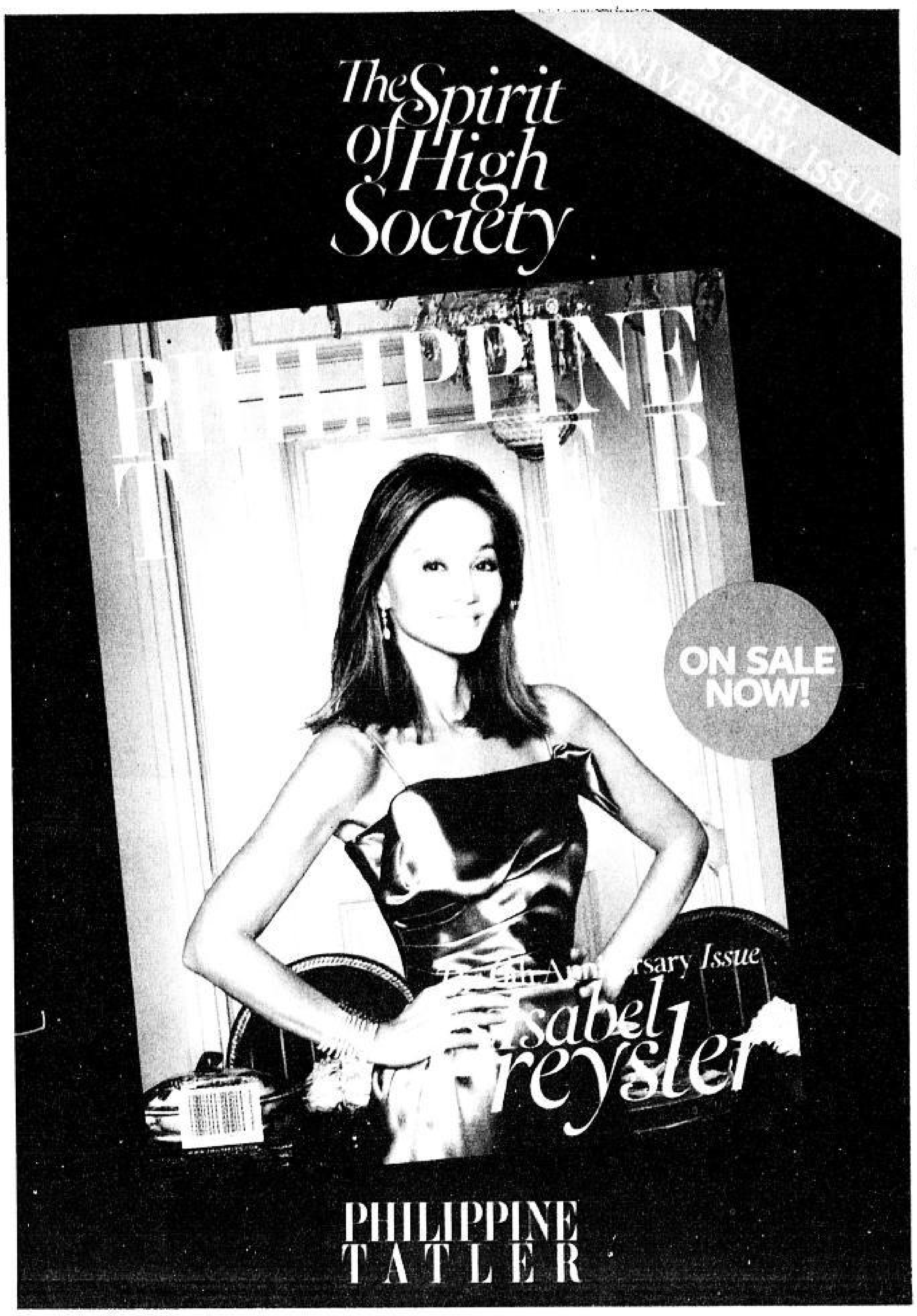
Classic watch lines such as Bulgari-Bulgari, Assioma, Diagono, and Ergon are available, presenting designs for both men and women.

The Bulgari Watchcorner is G/F, Rustan's Alabang Town Center. Call 8091364.

BULGARI Diagono



BULGARI B.zero I



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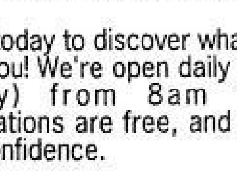
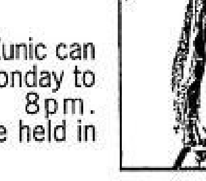


Before treatment



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0% is available only if monthly bills are paid in full.

Two famous

From page F1

Haroun Mórales and John James Uy.

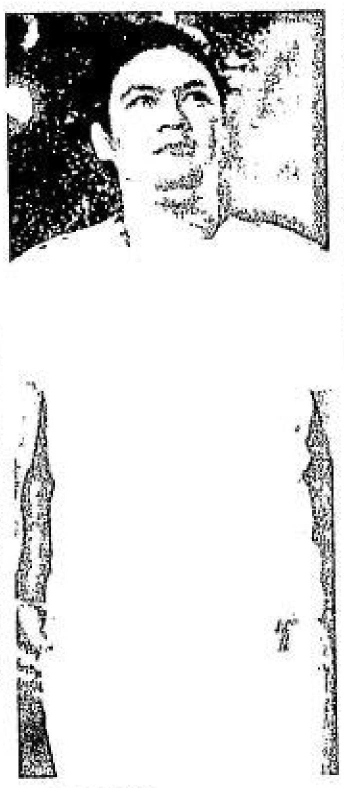
Angeles, on the other hand, was the last female to audition for the contest but had the spunk and the looks to finish first. She won over Kristin Mei Nieto and Michelle Alice Carbonell.

"*Napamahal na silang lahat sa akin,*" said Chan at the closing of the show, a bittersweet moment just like in any contest where there are losers and winners.

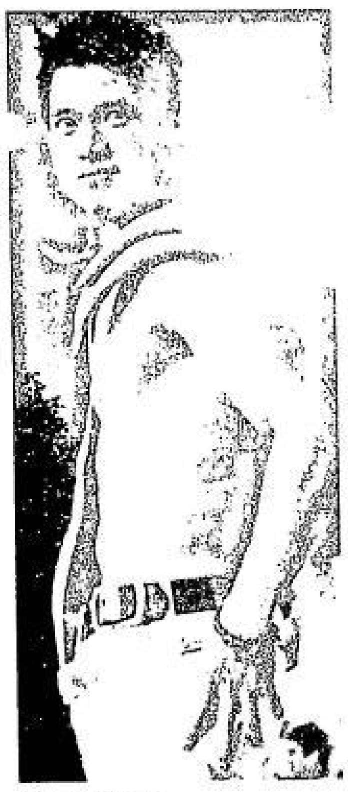
So while the four other finalists did not win the Bench endorsement contract—the plum award—and the ABS-CBN talent management contract, free Bench clothing for 15 months, scholarship from STI, and a two-bedroom house from Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp., Chan said Bench would still make use of their looks and modeling talents for future projects.

"Be Bench: Beyond 20" grand finals, a two-hour special, will air at 10 p.m. this Sunday over ABS-CBN.

PIOLO PASCUAL, Ben Chan and Kris Aquino



JOMARI Yllana



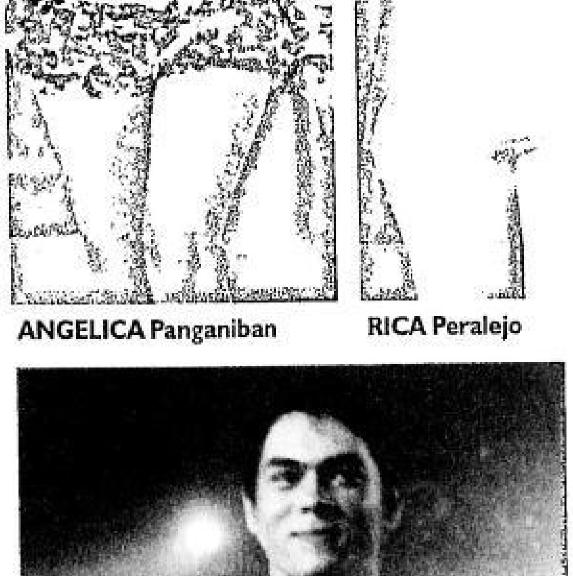
DIETHER Ocampo

ZANJOE Marudo

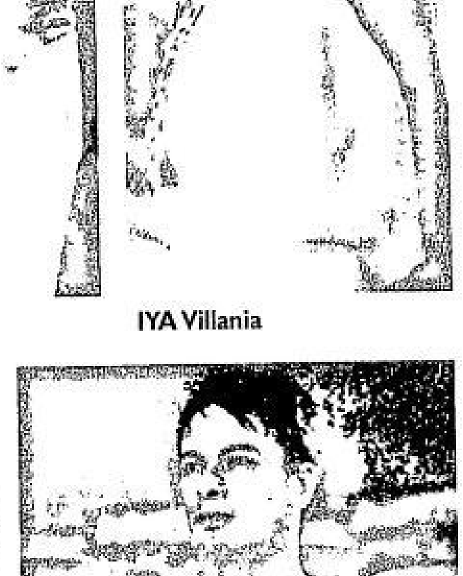
ANGELICA Panganiban

RICA Peralejo

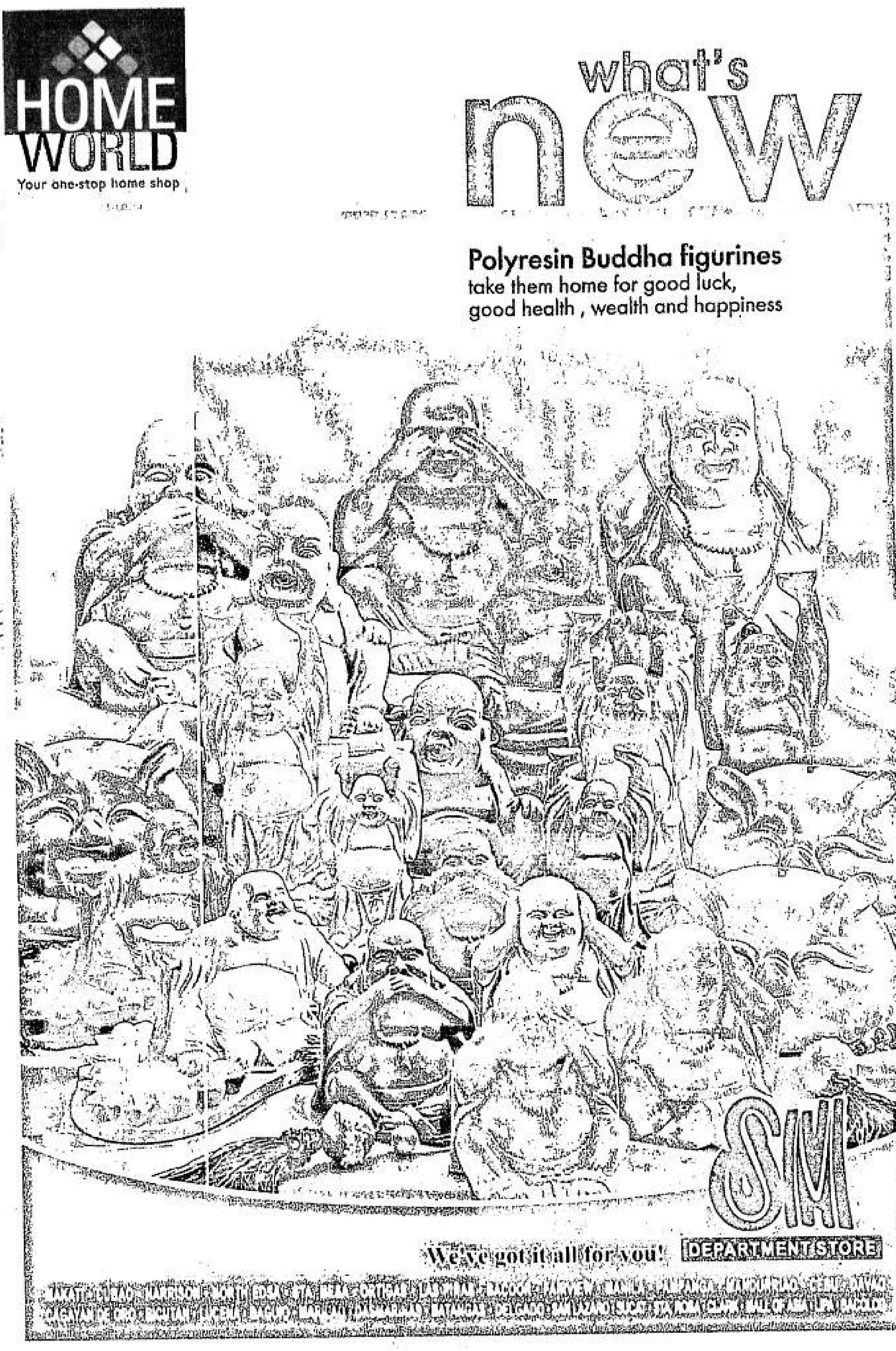
IYA Villania



JAKE Cuenca



RAFAEL Roselle



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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4398, Series of 2007.

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LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Are you a walking 'lead' container?

What our clothes, jewelry and fashion accessories are made of is now a burning issue

WE WOKE UP TO the sad news Tuesday that The Body Shop founder Anita Roddick had died, at 64, of brain hemorrhage.

Roddick was a woman ahead of her time. She championed the use of environment-friendly products and condemned product testing on animals long before doing so became a global cause. When she opened a small store in 1976 in her native Brighton, England, to support her two daughters, the world wasn't even into organics or natural products. Her The Body Shop brought the modern consumer back to the use of basic, home ingredients that Roddick remembered her mother had been using in the World War II years.

Her simple, back-to-basics approach to beauty and personal care changed the way women worldwide preferred their products. Women's Wear Daily called her a maverick for going against the tide of traditional beauty retail practices.

The Body Shop, with over 2,000 stores worldwide, was bought last year by L'Oreal. Businessmen do not readily realize how Roddick's The Body Shop is a perfect example of good business coming from good vision. Have an idea that serves the common good, and money follows. That's a better business formula than greed.

How safe

Interestingly, Roddick's death comes at a time when consumers and industries worldwide face the health threat posed by the use of lead in products such as cosmetics, jewelry and fashion accessories. This comes in the wake of the recall of toys, children's clothes, pet foods from the market, after they had been discovered to contain unhealthy levels of lead. According to Women's Wear Daily, some toys use lead-based paint and some children's clothes are tainted with formaldehyde.

In an extensive report, WWD cited how Juicy Couture recalled 2,800 units of children's jewelry in 2006 due to high lead levels.

Leading fashion and beauty brands across markets are reportedly scrutinizing anew their supply chain. About $21.6 billion worth of apparel is imported annually into the US, from China, according to WWD. It's interesting to note that the Fashion Jewelry Trade Association in the US is working on the regulation and standardization of lead levels in jewelry.

Anything with metal is a concern, be it ring, earrings or even bags. Metal, PVC, plastics are suspects for their toxicity. WWD reported that lead should make up no more than 10 percent of the jewelry's total weight for adults, and for kids, only 0.06 percent.

Can you believe it? As if we weren't paranoid enough about our health and safety, now we have to be conscious as well about the beauty, fashion products we buy—from hair dye to even our bags and bangles. At least we know that leading global brands are making sure they follow strict standardization levels.

With increasing globalization, the sourcing and manufacturing in one place, and brand management and marketing in another, is bound to become a big issue. The supply chain is changing fast, thus the need for strict monitoring and regulation systems. Raw materials and manufacturing are done in countries whose governments and regulatory bodies may not be as strict as the brand wants them to be.

In another report, WWD noted how interestingly, the core expertise of many of today's brand executives is marketing, not manufacturing or production, so it doesn't help that they are far removed from the supply chain. This is another issue that's cropping up.

So what must beauty and fashion consumers do? They must always be well-informed about the products they use. And go for reliable brands.

Tennis runway

"The courts are now a runway" is how a fashion retailer put the parade of tennis outfits in the just-concluded US Open in Flushing Meadows, New York. What's more, the tennis outfits are now divided into day and night wear.

The Manhattan retailer noted that the demand for tennis outfits—from Nike, Adidas to Lacoste—had spiked in the past five years. The obvious reason, of course, is that there are stylish tennis masters and hunks. There's also the "it" girl, Maria Sharapova.

These tennis icons end up designing the lines themselves—Sharapova and Venus and Serena Williams. In the US Open, Sharapova wore Nike black and white outfits, with the New York skyline on the shrug of the top. She also had fresh water pearls in a setting done by Tiffany's. But, as you well know, she crashed out. But then we're talking style.

We also love the peach color of Jelena Jankovic's two-piece Reebok, and, of course, Ana Ivanovic's Adilibria skort and cap-sleeved top. But what we always find most stylish are Lacoste's French women—Tatiana Golovin's polka-dot tennis dress, and always, Nathalie Dechy's slim white top with trimming down the shoulders and polka-dot white skirt. Theirs is the stylish mix of the sporty look, feminine touch and good design. Of course it helps that they're sooo slim.

ANITA Roddick

AFP

JELENA Jankovic

REUTERS

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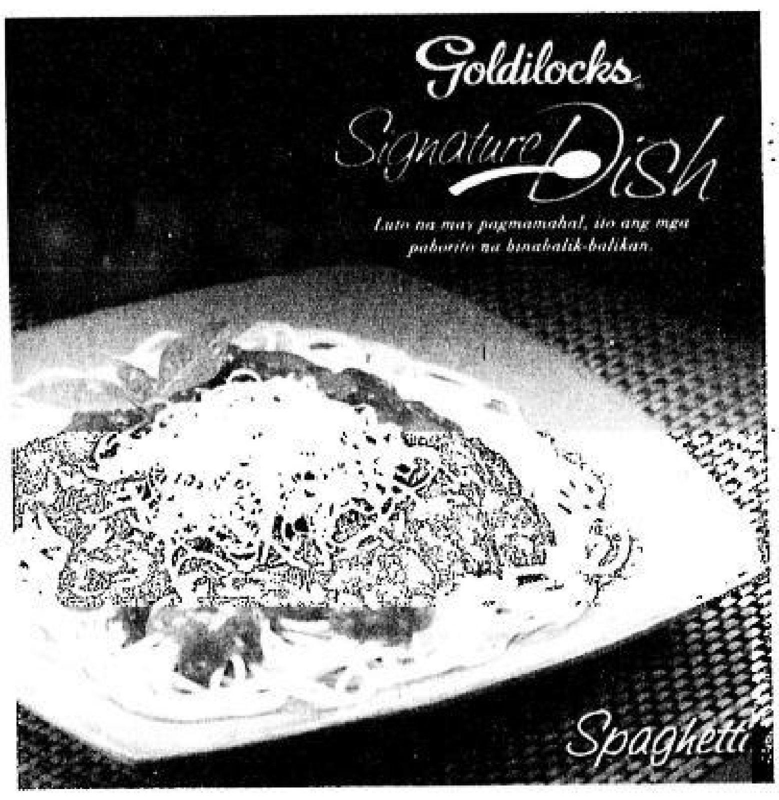

Goldilocks

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PHOTOS: JO ANN BITAGCOL
STYLING: MAUREEN DISINI
MAKEUP: LEO POSADAS OF BEDHEAD
HAIR: BREN SALES
MODEL: MARILEN FAUSTINO
CLOTHES: ZARA AND ENSEMBLES

Red and hot

THE POWER COLOR RED IS right in the palm of your hand with the Red Treo 680 smartphone, a limited offering from Microwarehouse, the leading distributor of networking, mobile and digital lifestyle devices in the Philippines.

The Red Treo 680 has a sleek and slim exterior. It has an intuitive [illegible] full easy-type keyboard, perfect for writing SMS messages and e-mail. Its optimal 320x320 vibrant color screen [illegible]

The Red Treo 680 smartphone has a unique phone user interface [illegible] simplifies [illegible] innovations [illegible] responding to calls with [illegible] adding new phone numbers to existing contact information [illegible]

The Red Treo 680 also has integrated e-mail and web capabilities. The messaging application displays text messaging conversations in threaded chats, similar to [illegible] conversation with contacts.

The Treo 680 smartphone can be used as an mp3 player. It also has an integrated digital camera, camcorder and video player.

Citibank PayLite Installment for the Red Treo 680 is available for [illegible] months at zero percent interest. Citibank card holders will [illegible] when they purchase a Red Treo 680 through Citibank PayLite Installment. Citibank card holders can also purchase other Palm Treo products and get the following freebies: Treo 680 Silver with a free 1GB SD card and Treo 750 with a free 1GB mini SD card.

Available at Mobile [illegible] Abenson [illegible] Home, Automatic Center, Complink, Electroworld, SM Appliance Center, Silicon Valley [illegible] Promo runs until Oct. [illegible] Call [illegible] 3704 [illegible] microwarehouse.com.ph

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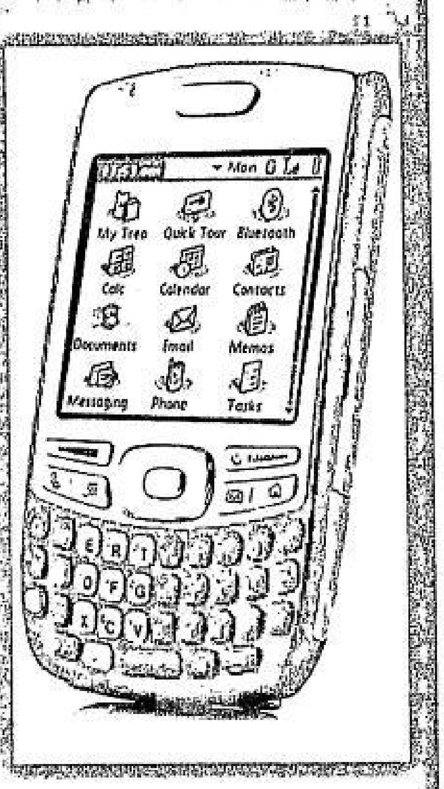

GOINGS ON

Three-day mall-wide sale starts today

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It's all about food on Sunday!
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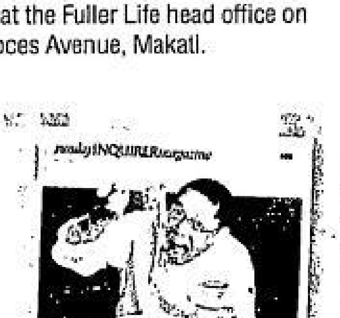

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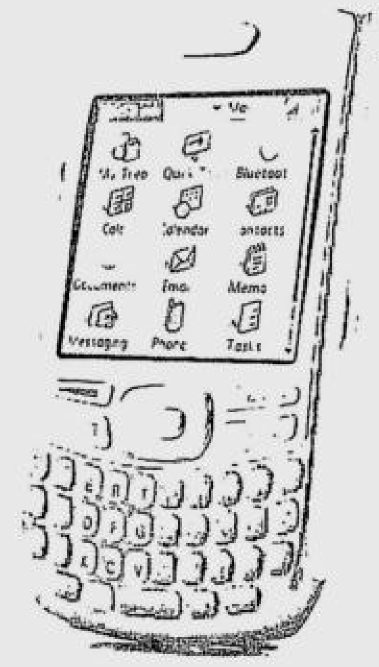

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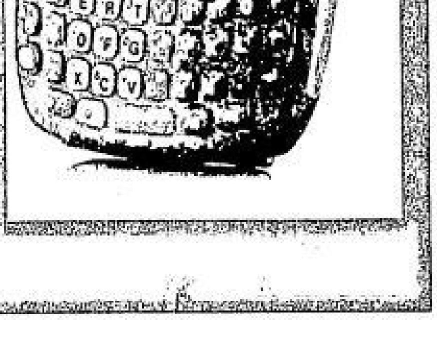
Microwarehouse [illegible] branches in [illegible] Metro Cebu and Davao.



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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

KELLY Misa, model

ORNUSSA Cadness, model

Levi's Girls
Levi's® Store
levi.com

PRECIOUS Lara Quigaman, Miss International

PATTY Laurel, TV host

PRISCILLA Meirelles, Miss Earth

Denim giant celebrates girl power

LEVI'S RECENTLY OPENED ITS GIRLS stores at Festival Mall, Alabang and Ayala Center Cebu.

Year by year, Levi's Girls has been achieving double-digit growth. As the style-conscious market yearns more, Levi's product selection has been expanding as well. Product additions include the recently launched Levi's Copper, Levi's Lady Style, Levi's Red Tab, the classic Levi's 501, and Levi's Engineered Jeans.

Opening the Levi's Girls store were female personalities who reflect the idea of women's empowerment, such as model Ornussa Cadness, race-car driver Gaby dela Merced, TV host Patty Laurel, Miss Earth Priscilla Meirelles, model Kelly Misa, and Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman.

The feminine aesthetic of the brand is reflected in the store's interiors: fun and eye-catching accents, a generous use of pink and a feminine feel.

The Levi's Girls store also features accessories such as footwear, bags, wallets, small leather goods, watches, and eyewear.

The Levi's Girls store is located at Festival Mall, Alabang, and at Ayala Center-Cebu, Business Park Expansion Bldg.

MAEBEL Delos Reyes, Levi's accessory manager; Kit Tajonera, Levi's Mens product manager and Peaches Mendoza, Levi's Girls product manager

THE LEVI'S® Girls store in Festival Mall Alabang

JEN Ramos, Levi's consumer marketing manager

MONCH Martelino Levi's country manager

GABY dela Merced, sports enthusiast and race-car driver

THE DAWN
CHICOSCI
KAPATID
HILERA
CYNTHIA ALEXANDER
FASPITCH
DRIP
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BURN SESSIONS
THE BURN MAGAZINE BAR TOUR
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• May 26 at Capone's • June 22 at Saguijo • July 14 at Chakik's Ortigas • July 27 Mag:net High Street • August 10 at Al's Bar
• September 14 at Mag:Net High Street
• IMAGO • The DAWN • Milagros Dancehall Collective • DRIP • SOUND
• September 29 at Prince of Jaipur
• HIP-HOP Night courtesy of STEAK PRODUCTIONS
• October 11 at Piedra
• IN HOUSE DJ's
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Charina E. Sande
Quezon City
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Analyn Ariaga
Laguna
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Andrew S. Cuevas
Manila
September 7
Dyesebel R. Sarsaba
Cebu City

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Just write your NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE/MOBILE NUMBER, and SIGNATURE on a piece of paper and enclose either TWO (2) MYRA E FACIAL MOISTURIZER 10ML SACHETS or ONE (1) MYRA E FACIAL MOISTURIZER 50ML CARTON PACK.
Mail to Y&R PHILIPPINES, INC. 27/F YUCHENGCO TOWER, RCBC PLAZA 6819 AYALA AVE., MAKATI CITY or drop your entries at the Myra E Booth during Myra E Mall Tour in various malls.
Daily winners from September 15 until September 30 will be notified and announced on Eat Bulaga from Monday to Saturday and SOP on Sunday.
You too can win P30,000 in our daily draws this September!
See posters and flyers for more details.
September mall tour schedule:
September 15-16 SM North Edsa & SM Cebu
September 29-30 SM Dasmarinas & Trinoma
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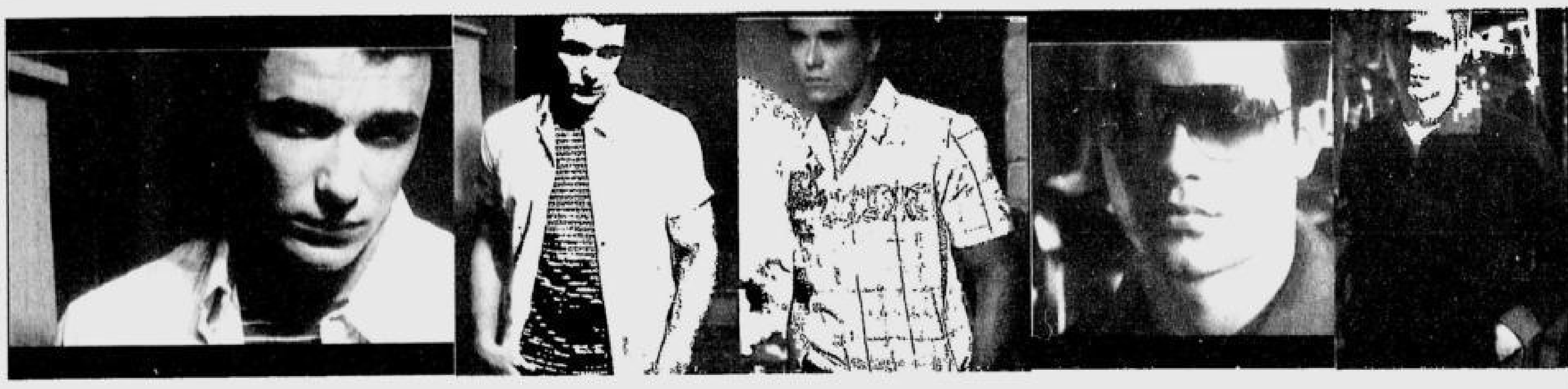
Trusted Quality Healthcare



Month-long men's fair

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE (RDS) showcases the best in men's apparel and accessories in "All About Men," a month-long Men's Fair happening at all RDS branches nationwide this September.

Whether you're a preppy college student, a young urban professional or a corporate honcho who wants to put style back in your dressing, you are sure to revel in RDS' Men's Fair. Check out its wide-ranging collection of must-haves.

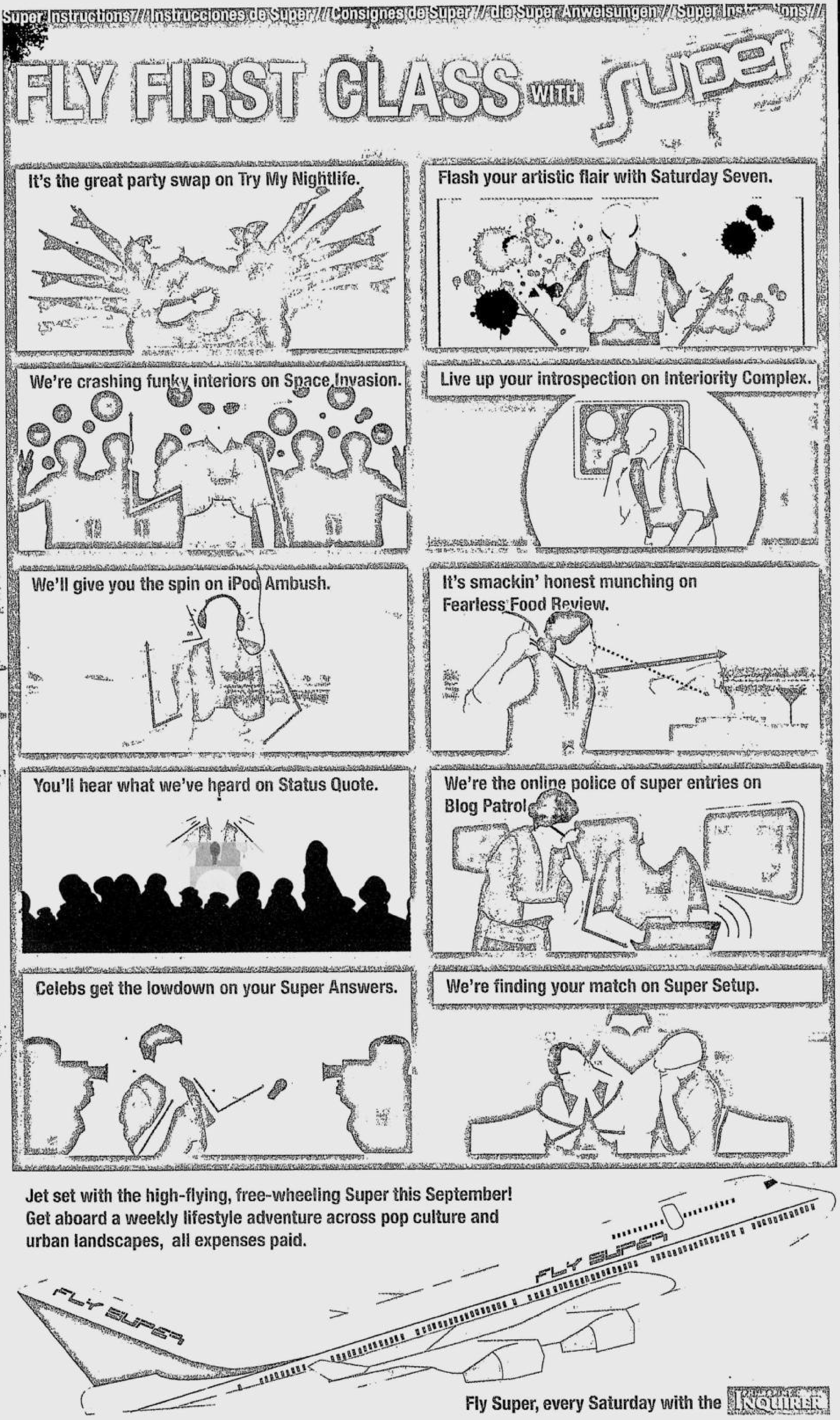
The hip, cosmopolitan male will pick a contemporary printed polo, wear it over belted checkered shorts and accessorize it with a leather cuff. Another option is a combination of round-neck shirt layered over a striped polo, paired with khaki cargo pants and matching sleek sneakers.

Another good ensemble consists of a trendy camouflage polo worn over a light-colored inner shirt, paired with belted dark vintage denims and black leather shoes.

A cool and classy look, meanwhile, can be achieved by pairing a classic striped shirt with vintage jeans. Fashion-savvy gentlemen also prefer elegant shirts, dress shoes, crisp blazers, trousers, sunglasses and neat jackets.

Shoppers who join the promo can also win exciting prizes. Every P300 single or accumulated receipt purchase entitles a customer to join raffle and a chance to bring home one of these prizes: one Acer TravelMate Laptop, three Canon Powershot Digital Camera or 120 Brites Sunglasses.

Visit www.rds.com.ph.



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FLY FIRST CLASS WITH super

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We're crashing funky interiors on Space Invasion.

Live up your introspection on Interiority Complex.

We'll give you the spin on iPod Ambush.

It's smackin' honest munching on Fearless Food Review.

You'll hear what we've heard on Status Quote.

We're the online police of super entries on Blog Patrol.

Celebs get the lowdown on your Super Answers.

We're finding your match on Super Setup.

Jet set with the high-flying, free-wheeling Super this September! Get aboard a weekly lifestyle adventure across pop culture and urban landscapes, all expenses paid.

Fly Super, every Saturday with the INQUIRER

Something exclusive is coming your way in Inquirer Sunday Lifestyle.

Don't miss the September 16 issue of the Inquirer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment
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A visit with RP's Yam and Iza

…on the multi-national set of 'The Echo' in Toronto

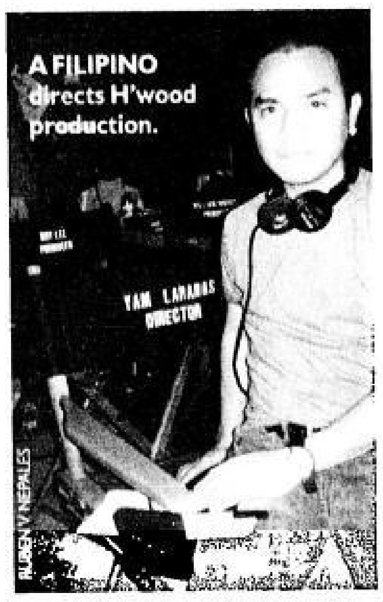
ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

TORONTO, ONTARIO—WE took a break from our busy Toronto International Film Festival schedule on Tuesday to visit with director **Yam Laranas** and actress **Iza Calzado** on the set of their movie, "The Echo."

Prior to the visit, we invited Yam to a cocktail party hosted by Universal Pictures. Then we dragged him to the house of my Toronto cousins, the Viados, where Yam had his first home-cooked Filipino meal in quite a

A VISIT/H4



A FILIPINO directs H'wood production.

RUBEN V. NEPALES

Rivermaya search airs Sunday

DURING Rivermaya's auditions for a fourth member in August, 500 turned up, including hopefuls from the US, UK and the Middle East. The auditions will be chronicled in "Rivermaya: Bagong Liwanag (The Audition Specials)," seven Sundays starting Sept. 16, 9:15 p.m., on Studio 23.

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Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 100 632-9118

1 THE BRAVE ONE • THX
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM
4 UNDERDOG
5 FOSTER CHILD
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 DISTURBIA
8 DAY WATCH
NANCY DREW
9 EVAN ALMIGHTY
SKIN WALKERS
10 1408

Ligaw Liham

Sometime in the 70's, in a small town in Negros, the post office simply stops its operations. No one knew about this except for the postman and his caretaker. When Nor, finds out about this secret, he finds an opportunity to sway to the dance of love when he assumes the identity of another man. Nor reads the letters hidden in an old warehouse and takes over the pen of Karen's husband who was working in Saigon. Soon after, a correspondence between Nor and Karen takes place. And Nor finds himself truly falling in love.

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Ligaw Liham

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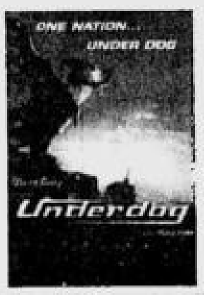
2 FOSTER CHILD
3 DISTURBIA
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 UNDERDOG
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 SKINWALKERS
1408



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Ticket Price P100/P110 682-8193 / 682-8190

1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH
5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6 1408
7 DISTURBIA
8 RUSH HOUR 3
SKIN WALKERS

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price P90/P100 935-5231 / 936-5229-30

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH

PIONEER

Ticket Price P100/P110 687-6378

1 ROGUE ASSASSIIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 SIGNOS
2 UNDERDOG
3 SINKING Of JAPAN
4 THE BRAVE ONE

LIPA

Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 UNDERDOG
2 THE INVASION
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 RUSH HOUR 3

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 SIGNOS
4 DAYWATCH

IMUS

Ticket Price: P90 (046) 875-3638 (046) 471-8188

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2346

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 DON'T LOOK BACK

TARLAC

1 SINKING of JAPAN
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SIGNOS

STARMILLS

Ticket Price P80 / P90 (045) 875-1827

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 SIGNOS
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 DON'T LOOK BACK
6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 THE INVASION
4 SINKING of JAPAN
5 PLANET TERROR
6 SIGNOS

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 THE INVASION
5 THE LAST KING of SCOTLAND
6 SIGNOS

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MOVIE GUIDE
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SHANG CINEPLEX

6th Floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

1 (DOLBY) UNDERDOG
2 (DOLBY) THE BRAVE ONE
3 (DOLBY) NANCY DREW
4 (DOLBY) ROGUE ASSASIN

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) DISTURBIA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati

Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 UNDERDOG
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 DISTURBIA
4 ROGUE ASSASIN

starmall EDSA-SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 UNDERDOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) I KNOW WHO KILL ME
5 PLEASE CALL

metropolis star cinema

www.clicktheory.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

THEATRES

1 THE INVASION
2 RISE
3 SINKING JAPAN

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660 5271

1 UNDERDOG
2 THE INVASION
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 1408
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
4 UNDERDOG
5 ROGUE ASSASIN
6 UNDERDOG
7 THE BRAVE ONE
8 NANCY DREW / DAY WATCH
THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM / DISTURBIA
RUSH HOUR - 3 / SKINWALKERS

Blue Wave

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) THE BRAVE ONE
2 (DOLBY) SKINWALKERS
3 (DOLBY) UNDERDOG
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 THE BRBRAVE ONE
5 UNDERDOG

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 DAY WATCH
2 LAST LEGION
3 THE INVASION
4 CHOPSOUEY

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 UNDERDOG
2 THE INVASION

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 SIGNOS
4 HAIRSPRAY

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7087

1 SINKING JAPAN
2 1408

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 UNDERDOG
2 THE BRBRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASIN
4 DISTURBIA

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 THE BRBRAVE ONE
2 THE INVASION
3 UNDERDOG
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 SIGNOS
2 PLANET TERROR
3 SINKING JAPAN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 FRACTURE
2 SIGNOS
3 SINKING JAPAN
4 THREE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 LICENSE TO WED / THE INVASION
2 UNDERDOG
3 RISE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 THE INVASION
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 LAST LEGION

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 SKINWALKERS
2 MALAGKIT
3 ITLOG
4 LAST LEGION

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 THE INVASION
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 LAST LEGION
5 UNDERDOG

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 LAST LEGION
2 THE INVASION
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 UNDERDOG

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 TUMITIBOK
2 BATANG MAGDALENA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

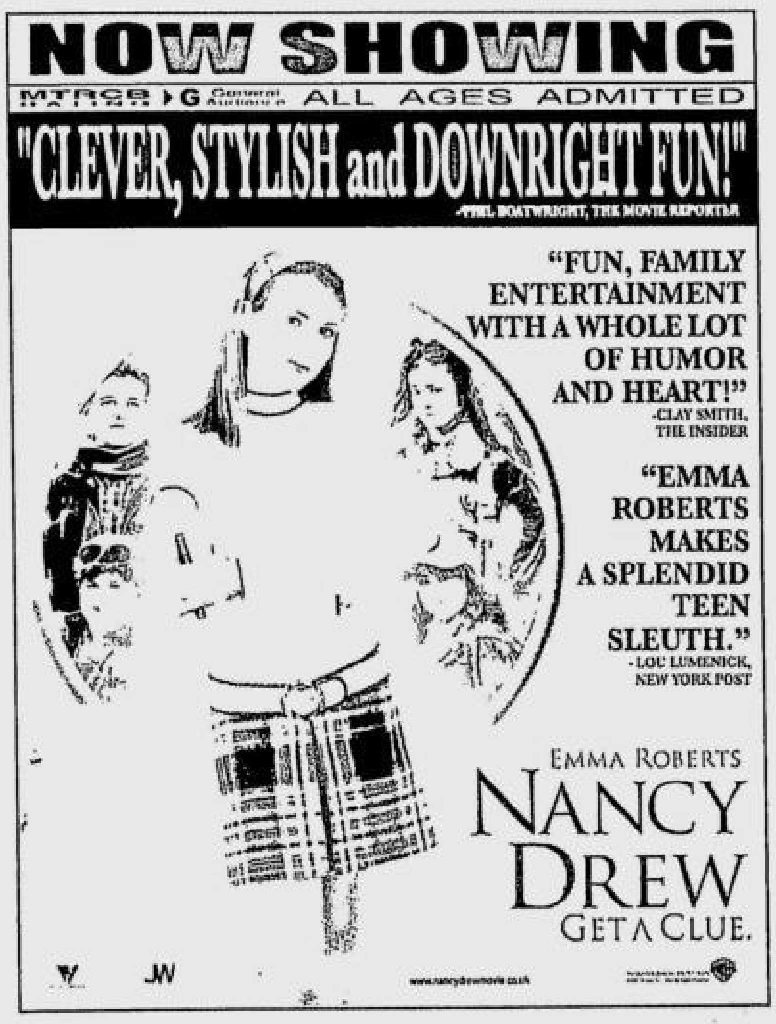
Script writing workshop with Bing Lao

MLR FILMS INVITES WRITERS who have written a TV script, stage play, short film or full-length feature film to a script writing workshop in UP Diliman.

The workshop, to be conducted by award-winning screenwriter Armando "Bing" Lao, will be held Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 7 p.m. on the following dates: Sept. 15 and 16; Sept. 22 and 23; Sept. 29 and 30; Oct. 6 and 7; Oct. 13 and 14; Oct. 21 and 22; and Oct. 27 and 28.

Sponsored in part by the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the workshop is limited to 30 participants. Fee is P5,000.

Filmographies may be e-mailed to armando_lao@yahoo.com or call 0918-3384771.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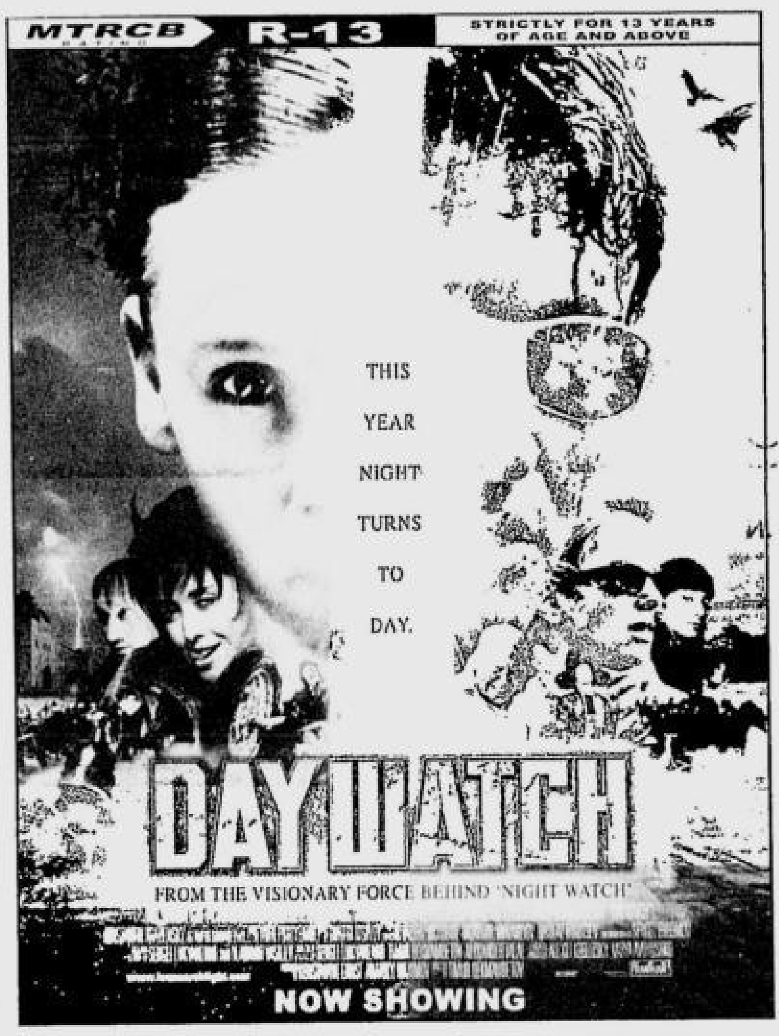
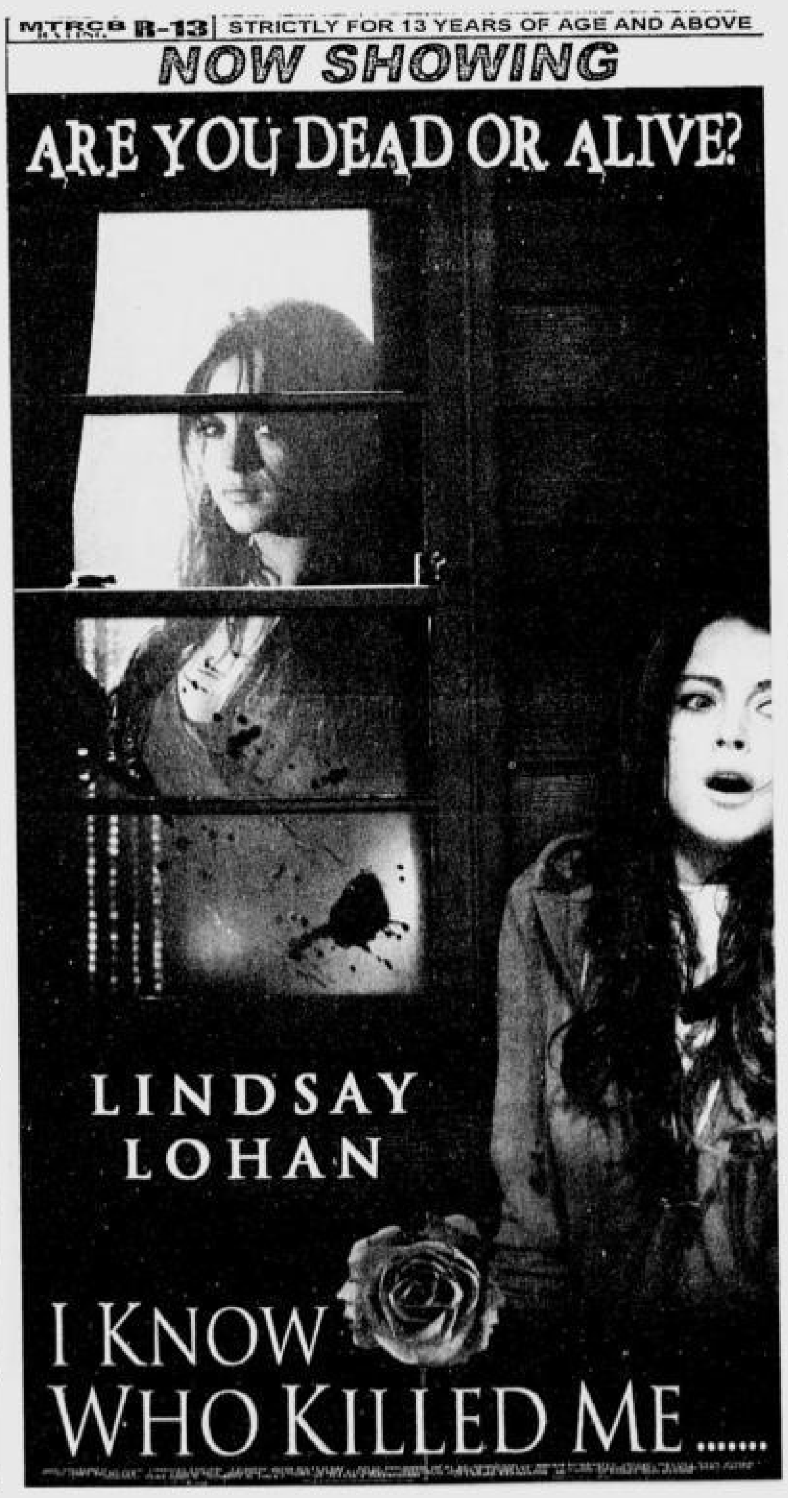
"FUN, FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT WITH A WHOLE LOT OF HUMOR AND HEART!"
-CLAY SMITH, THE INSIDER
"EMMA ROBERTS MAKES A SPLENDID TEEN SLEUTH."
-LOU LUMENICK, NEW YORK POST
EMMA ROBERTS
NANCY DREW
GET A CLUE.
www.nancydrewmovie.co.uk

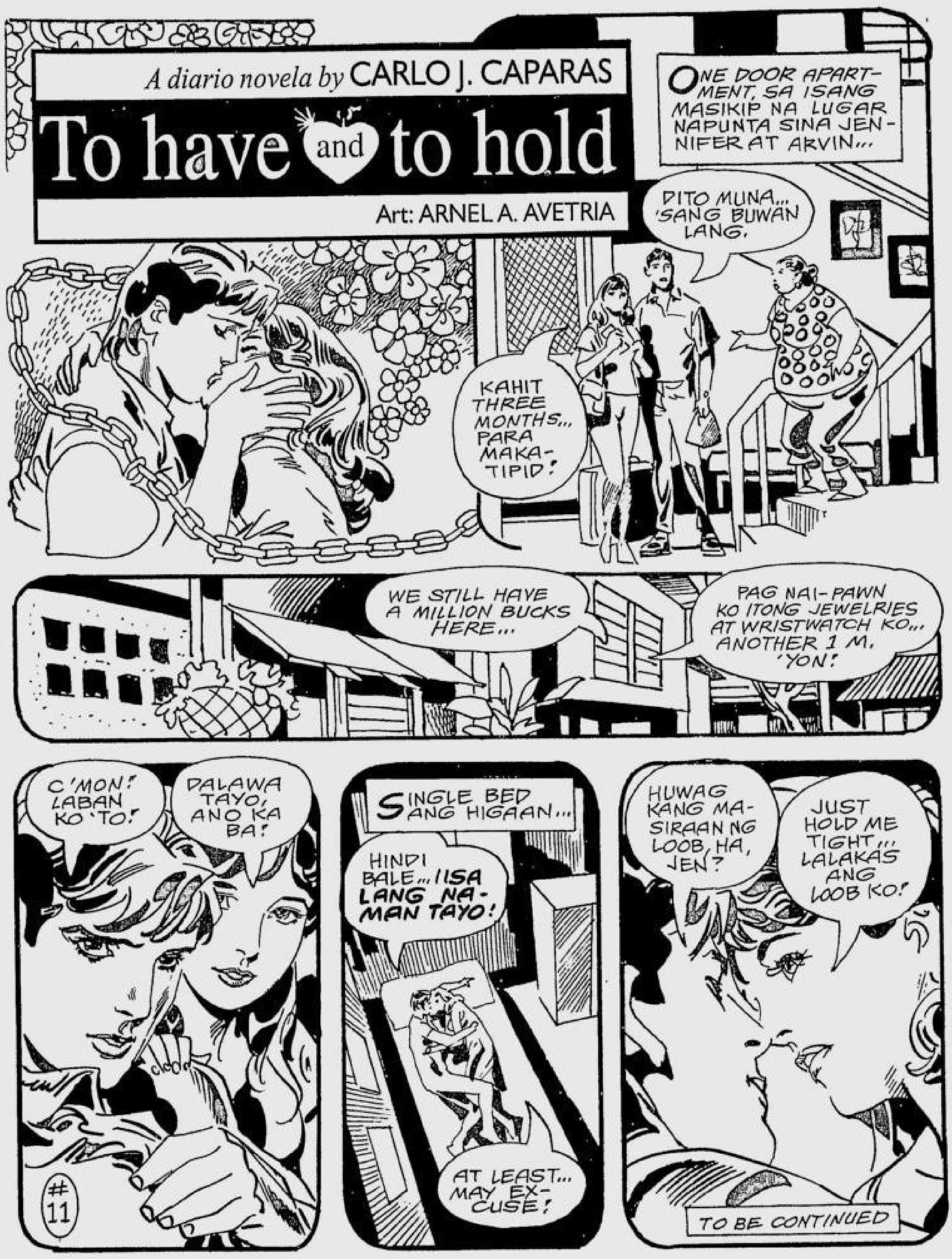

MTRCB R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
THIS YEAR NIGHT TURNS TO DAY.
DAY WATCH
FROM THE VISIONARY FORCE BEHIND 'NIGHT WATCH'
NOW SHOWING


MTRCB R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
NOW SHOWING
ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE?
LINDSAY LOHAN
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME......

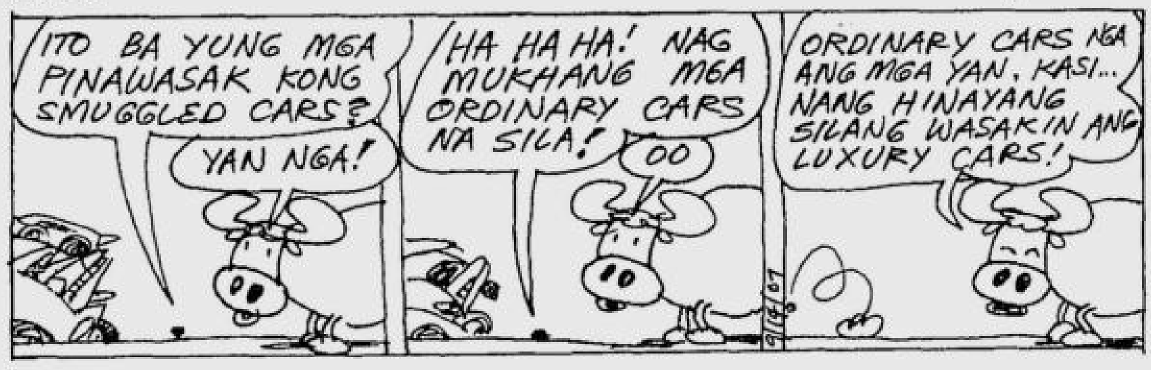
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

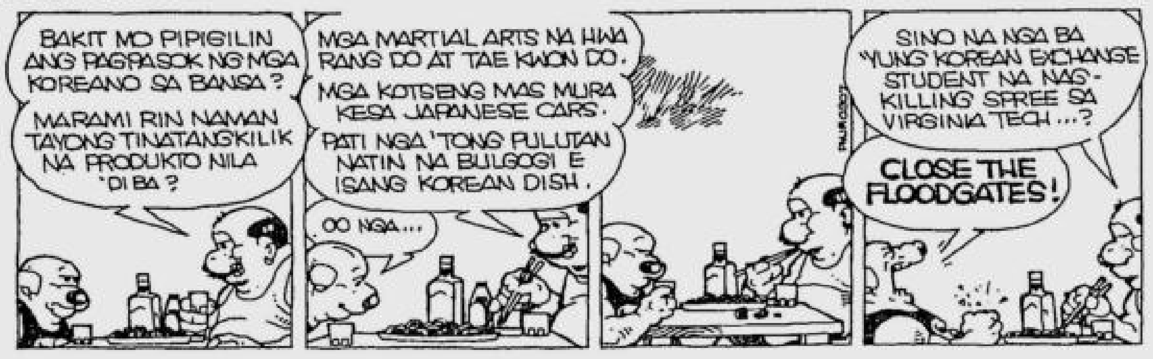
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


ONE DOOR APARTMENT, SA ISANG MASIKIP NA LUGAR NAPUNTA SINA JENNIFER AT ARVIN...
DITO MUNA... 'SANG BUWAN LANG.
KAHIT THREE MONTHS... PARA MAKATIPID!
WE STILL HAVE A MILLION BUCKS HERE...
PAG NAI-PAWN KO ITONG JEWELRIES AT WRISTWATCH KO... ANOTHER 1 M. 'YON!
C'MON! LABAN KO 'TO!
DALAWA TAYO, ANO KA BA!
#11
SINGLE BED ANG HIGAAN...
HINDI BALE... ISA LANG NAMAN TAYO!
AT LEAST... MAY EXCUSE!
HUWAG KANG MASIRAAN NG LOOB, HA, JEN?
JUST HOLD ME TIGHT... LALAKAS ANG LOOB KO!
TO BE CONTINUED

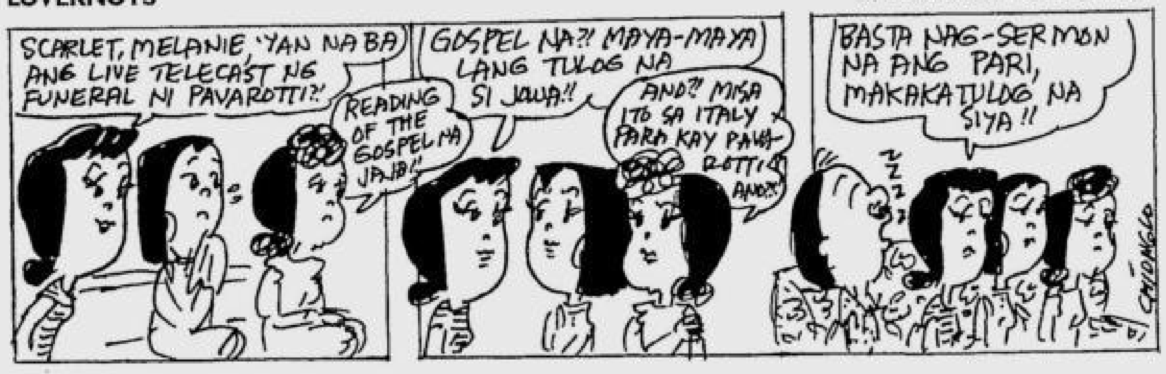
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ITO BA YUNG MGA PINAWASAK KONG SMUGGLED CARS?
YAN NGA!
HA HA HA! NAG MUKHANG MGA ORDINARY CARS NA SILA!
OO
ORDINARY CARS NGA ANG MGA YAN, KASI... NANG HINAYANG SILANG WASAKIN ANG LUXURY CARS!
9/14/07

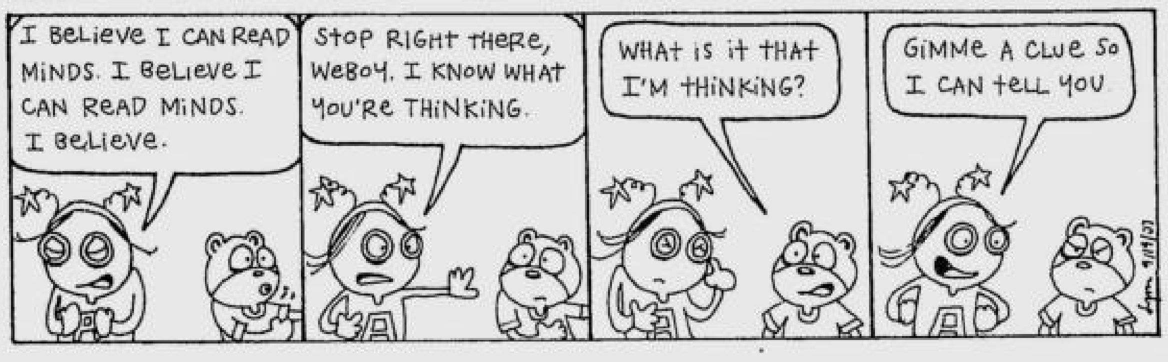
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT MO PIPIGILIN ANG PAGPASOK NG MGA KOREANO SA BANSA?
MARAMI RIN NAMAN TAYONG TINATANGKILIK NA PRODUKTO NILA 'DI BA?
MGA MARTIAL ARTS NA HWA RANG DO AT TAE KWON DO.
MGA KOTSENG MAS MURA KESA JAPANESE CARS.
PATI NGA 'TONG PULUTAN NATIN NA BULGOGI E ISANG KOREAN DISH.
OO NGA...
SINO NA NGA BA 'YUNG KOREAN EXCHANGE STUDENT NA NAG-KILLING SPREE SA VIRGINIA TECH...?
CLOSE THE FLOODGATES!

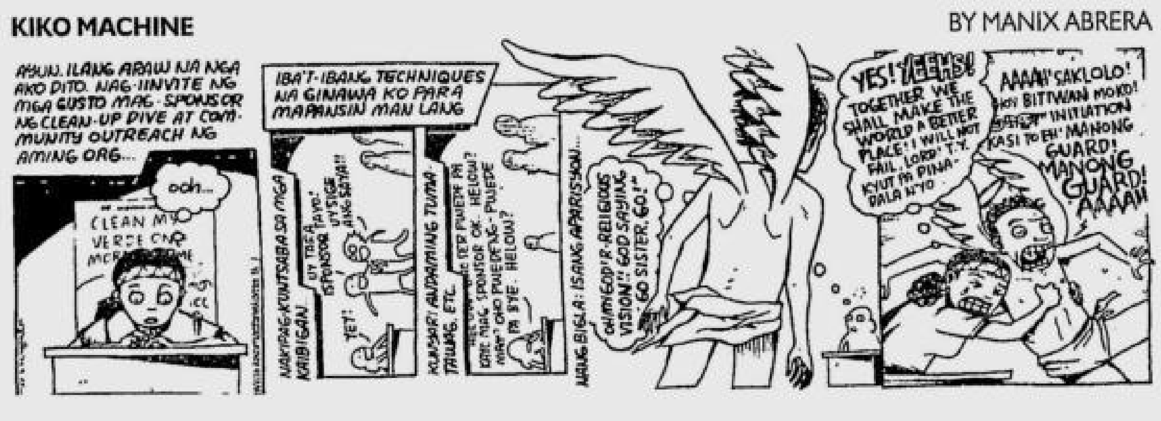
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, MELANIE, 'YAN NA BA ANG LIVE TELECAST NG FUNERAL NI PAVAROTTI?!
READING OF THE GOSPEL NA JAJA!
GOSPEL NA?! MAYA-MAYA LANG TULOG NA SI JAJA!!
ANO?! MISA ITO SA ITALY PARA KAY PAVAROTTI! ANO?!
BASTA NAG-SERMON NA ANG PARI, MAKAKATULOG NA SIYA!!
ZZZ
CHIONGLO

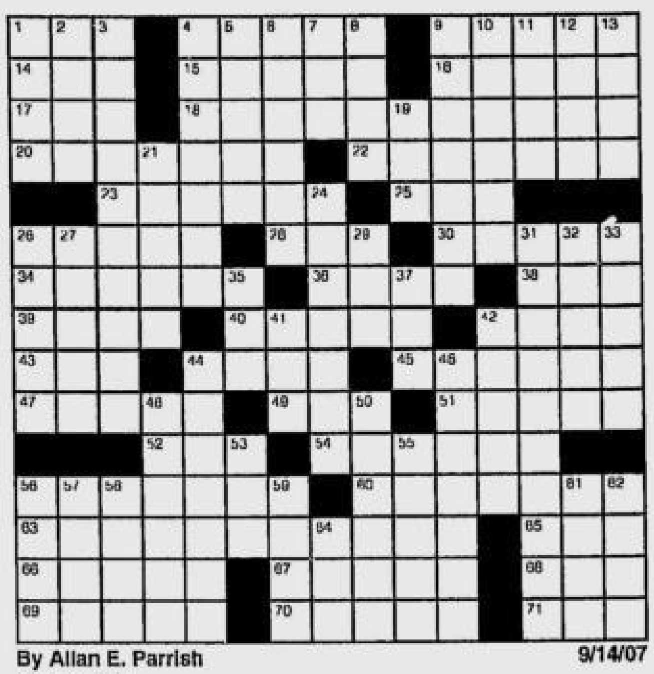
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I BeLieve I CAN ReAD MiNDS. I BeLieve I CAN ReAD MiNDS. I BeLieve.
StoP RIGHT there, WeBoY. I KNOW WHAT You'Re THiNKiNG.
WHAT is it THAT I'M tHiNKiNG?
GiMMe A CLue So I CAN teLL You
Lyra 9/14/07

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


AYUN. ILANG ARAW NA NGA AKO DITO. NAG-IINVITE NG MGA GUSTO MAG-SPONSOR NG CLEAN-UP DIVE AT COMMUNITY OUTREACH NG AMING ORG...
ooh...
CLEAN MY VERDE ISLAND
IBA'T-IBANG TECHNIQUES NA GINAWA KO PARA MAPANSIN MAN LANG
NAKIPAG-KUNTSABA SA MGA KAIBIGAN.
UY TREA, SPONSOR TAYO!
UY SIGE. MAG-SPONSOR TAYO!
YEY!
KUNWARI NAGPAPANG TUMATAWAG, ETC.
NAG-BIGLA: ISANG APARISYON...
GUMIGO!! R-RELIGIOUS VISION!! GOD SAYING: GO SISTER, GO!!
YES! YEEHS!
TOGETHER WE SHALL MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE! I WILL NOT FAIL, LORD!
AAAAH! SAKLOLO! MANONG GUARD! MANONG GUARD! AAAAH

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
9/14/07

ACROSS
1 Army non-com
4 Put forth
9 Way past fat
14 Fauna display
15 Intended
16 Outspoken
17 SFPD alert
18 Skirt responsibility
20 Paraphrase
22 Military landing field
23 Baseball's first Hall-of-Famer
25 Buddy
26 Crawled
28 Anti-poverty agcy.
30 Majestic
34 Crooner Julius
36 LSAT, e.g.
38 Noun-to-verb suffix
39 Elec. meas.
40 Copy cats?
42 NYC theater
43 Nigerian group
44 Boondocks assent to a lady
45 Rustic abodes
47 Saying
49 Sine __ non
51 Prague person
52 Pt. of speech
54 Kitchen gadget
56 J.P. Morgan company
60 Orchestra section
63 "Cheers" co-star
65 Utmost degree
66 French capital in an old song
67 Puzo or Cuomo
68 Yucatan year
69 Piece of broken pottery
70 "Barnaby Jones" star
71 Bit of butter

DOWN
1 Old ruler
2 Vicar of Christ
3 Underwater trapping device
4 Collisions
5 Old Pac. pact
6 Japanese port
7 Young followers?
8 Singer James
9 Pitching style
10 Mishandle, as a grounder
11 S. Amer. nation
12 Anatomical pouches
13 Actress Sommer
19 Cool or groovy
21 Clerical errors
24 Stein
26 Allegation
27 Stallone role
29 Tic-tac-toe loser
31 Crisp cookie
32 Tenochtitlan resident
33 Pet-shop buy
35 Logger's tool
37 Rose of Guns N' Roses
41 Atty. trailer
42 Timber trimmers
44 Sang in the Alps
46 Stop-sign shape
48 Addison-Steele periodical
50 Shady retreats
53 Victory gesture
55 Golfer Palmer
56 Mail dept.
57 Old ruler
58 Evening in Pisa
59 Old __, CT
61 Sicilian volcano
62 Word after 18A, 63A, 3D, 24D and 31D
64 Science milieu

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

G	A	D	S	■	C	U	E	■	D	U	S	T	U	P
A	C	R	E	■	H	A	L	■	E	S	T	A	T	E
T	H	E	W	H	E	E	L	■	M	E	E	K	E	R
S	E	I	N	E	S	■	A	Y	E	■	R	E	S	T
■	■	■	■	A	T	E	■	E	A	S	E	■	■	■
E	N	A	B	L	E	D	M	A	N	T	O	G	E	T
R	O	M	E	■	R	D	A	■	S	U	T	U	R	E
I	R	O	N	Y	■	A	N	N	■	D	Y	L	A	N
C	A	R	G	O	S	■	E	E	C	■	P	A	T	E
A	H	E	A	D	U	N	T	I	L	H	E	G	O	T
■	■	■	Z	A	M	A	■	L	O	A	■	■	■	■
B	A	E	Z	■	M	M	E	■	T	R	O	O	P	S
A	V	I	A	T	E	■	B	E	H	I	N	D	I	T
T	E	R	R	O	R	■	A	V	E	■	T	O	N	Y
T	R	E	A	T	Y	■	Y	E	S	■	O	R	Y	X

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9/14/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	3			8	1		6	
9								8
			2					
		9		2				4
2			4		8			9
1				5		3		
					2			
4								2
	5		7	3			4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/14

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Answer to previous puzzle

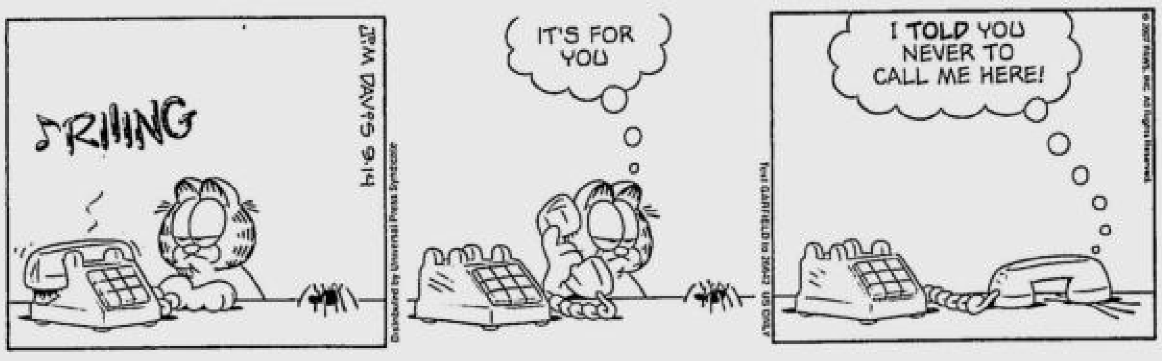
4	2	3	1	8	7	9	5	6
8	9	5	6	4	3	2	1	7
7	1	6	5	9	2	8	3	4
3	4	9	8	2	1	7	6	5
2	6	7	4	5	9	1	8	3
1	5	8	7	3	6	4	2	9
6	3	4	9	1	8	5	7	2
5	7	1	2	6	4	3	9	8
9	8	2	3	7	5	6	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


RIIING
JIM DAVIS 9-14
IT'S FOR YOU
I TOLD YOU NEVER TO CALL ME HERE!

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're intelligent, assertive and highly independent. You have strong convictions. Your restless nature drives you to explore life through travel or education. Your persuasive skills are excellent, and you're a good problem-solver. You love luxury and beautiful things. The year ahead could bring a major change, possibly as significant as something around 1999.

Birthdate of: Sam Neill, actor; Faith Ford, actress; Kate Millet, writer/activist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might hear news or a piece of information that helps you get a better understanding of a close friendship or partnership today. Whatever occurs might give you a whole new slant on things.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't be afraid to suggest ideas that are improvements to where you work. Similarly, you might come up with ways of improving your own health today. (Great!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): If you have an opportunity to teach children or younger people something important, act on it. You have a deeper understanding of how things work today. Share it if you can.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might be able to make improvements to bathroom areas, plumbing or even your garbage situation today. You want to clean things up! Get rid of messy clutter!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have a deeper understanding of how others view you today. Someone might say something rather casually that actually has a strong impact on you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You'll discover new uses for existing items that you now own. You see new applications for things. Similarly, you might see new ways of earning money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have a better understanding of your communication with others. You see now how others view you. You might also have a better idea of the kind of image you project to others. (Good to know!)

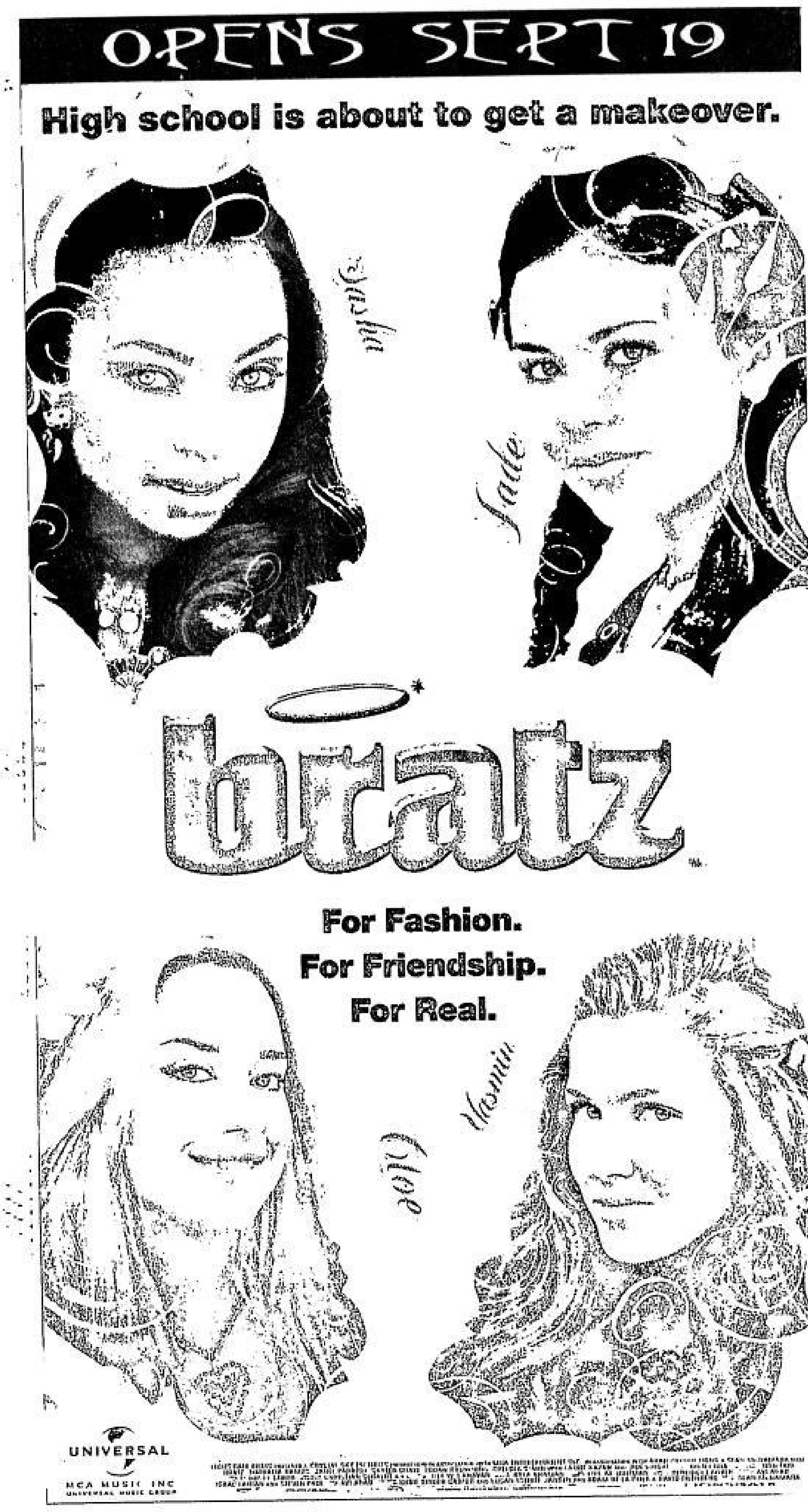
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Research definitely will reveal some secrets or some sought-after information today. You might find new solutions to old problems.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A friend could teach you something important today. Others seem to see the subtext of things that you might have missed. Be open to what they say.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Someone in authority might have ideas about how to improve things. Actually, you might have ideas as well. Work together to make things work better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The penny drops today. The light bulb suddenly goes on. Now you have a better understanding about something having to do with politics, religion or other cultures.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might find new uses for things that other people own. Or you might have better ideas about how to share something. Why not make a suggestion and see what people think? (It's just talk.)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A visit with Yam and Iza

From page H1

while—*pancit laksa, pusit* and *paksiw na lechon*. We ended the night with another party, this one tendered by Focus Features for its festival entry, "Eastern Promises." Yam was thrilled to meet the film's director, **David Cronenberg**, who reunites with his "A History of Violence" star, **Viggo Mortensen** (who was present), for another great, albeit very violent film.

With my cousins **Michael Acedillo** and **Samantha East**, we trooped to Stage 15 of a film studio, eager to watch Yam and Iza work on the Hollywood remake of their Filipino thriller, "Sigaw."

"EVERYBODY has a copy of the script," says Iza (left) of working in Hollywood. "And there are fewer people on the set." She is shown here with Yam (center) and co-star Amelia Warner.

An assistant met us at the door of the soundstage where Yam has been filming "The Echo" 12 hours a day, Monday to Friday, since Aug. 13. Walking through the maze of faux bedrooms and hallways, we finally reached the set where Yam was shooting the day's sequence which shows **Pruitt Taylor Vince**, who plays the apartment neighbor of lead actor **Jesse Bradford**, being haunted by ghosts. Yam, in a brown T-shirt, jeans and brown Nike sneakers, was in a huddle with his crew amid a bank of monitors, cameras and cables on the floor.

After welcoming us, he led us out to meet Iza, who sat outside her trailer after finishing a take. She was quite a sight, her face a swollen, bloody mess, thanks to make-up and prosthetics. Our instinct was to whip up our Nikon. But we remembered Yam's polite request not to take pictures of Iza in her character's make-up. Of course, he and his producers want to build up anticipation among moviegoers for the horror-thriller.

"Does it bother you?" Iza thoughtfully asked about her heavily bruised look. "Sometimes I forget I have this on when I talk to people. They cringe." She wore a black jacket over her costume, a nondescript dress and matching brown shoes, during breaks. The wardrobe unit has at least five copies of this dress.

Iza invited us to her trailer, a comfy, compact wood-paneled space equipped with a couch, TV set, DVD player, portable CD player, sink, small fridge, toilet and shower. Posted on the trailer door is a sign that says "Gina," the name of her character.

After turning on the air conditioner, the daughter of choreographer and TV director Lito Calzado sat down for an interview. Her cheerful spirit broke through the gruesome look. She screamed like a delighted little girl several times during our conversation. "It is going great!" she enthused when asked how her Toronto filming experience was going so far.

We worried that her several hours' worth of prosthetic make-up would be ruined when she screamed, swooned and deliberately fell, side face down, on the couch when she learned that we had interviewed **Johnny Depp** in Venice. "Please tell Johnny that I love him even though he doesn't know me!" she quipped.

The first thing that Iza blurted out when we inquired how different it was to make a film here was, "Every one has a copy of the script. And the script is so detailed; it even [indicates] the time when people are needed on the set. Everything is so organized."

Since there are people who take care of her costume, make-up, etcetera, the actress said, "I only need to bring myself." She volunteered, though, that today she forgot to bring a book that she'd been reading on the set.

Another difference, she cited, was the work schedule of 12 hours each week day, with a one-hour lunch break. "*Sagrado 'yan*," she said of the strictly observed hours. "And there are less people on the set," Iza added. With a smile, she said that, in Manila, "You bring your *yayas*, make-up artists and other people." **(To be continued tomorrow.)**

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

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5:35 , 7:45 , 10:00
GP

CINEMA 5 THE BRAVE ONE
10:45 , 1:35 , 4:25
7:15 , 10:00
R-13

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	October 08 & 09 2007	" Alamat " Stageplay	[illegible]
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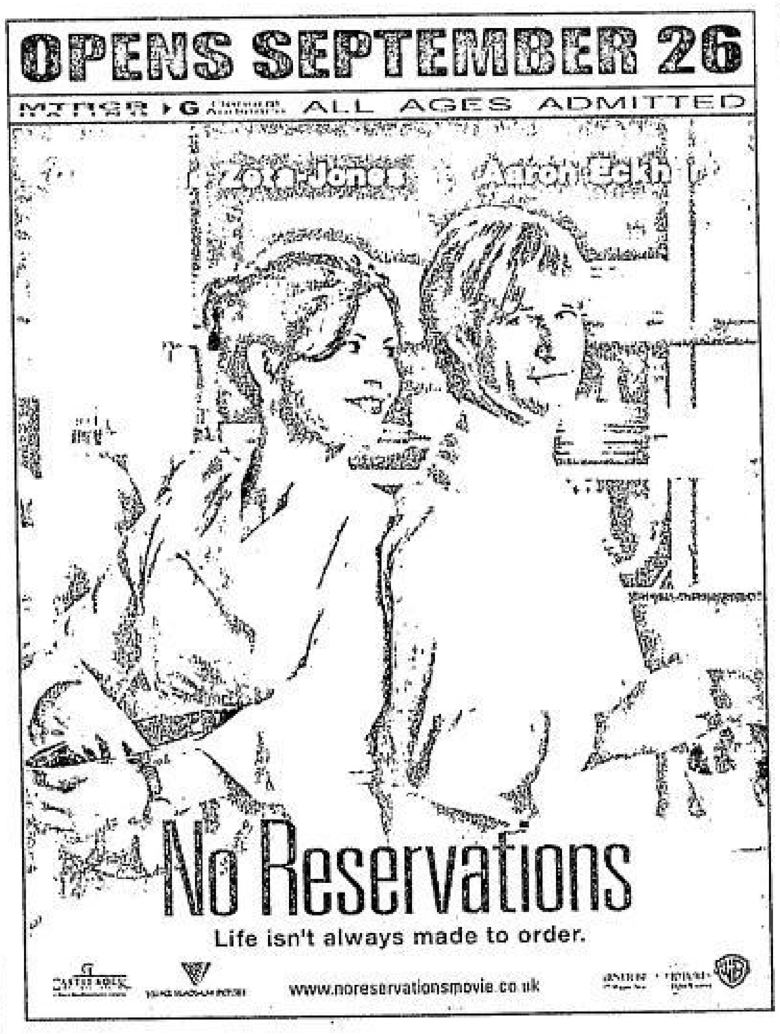
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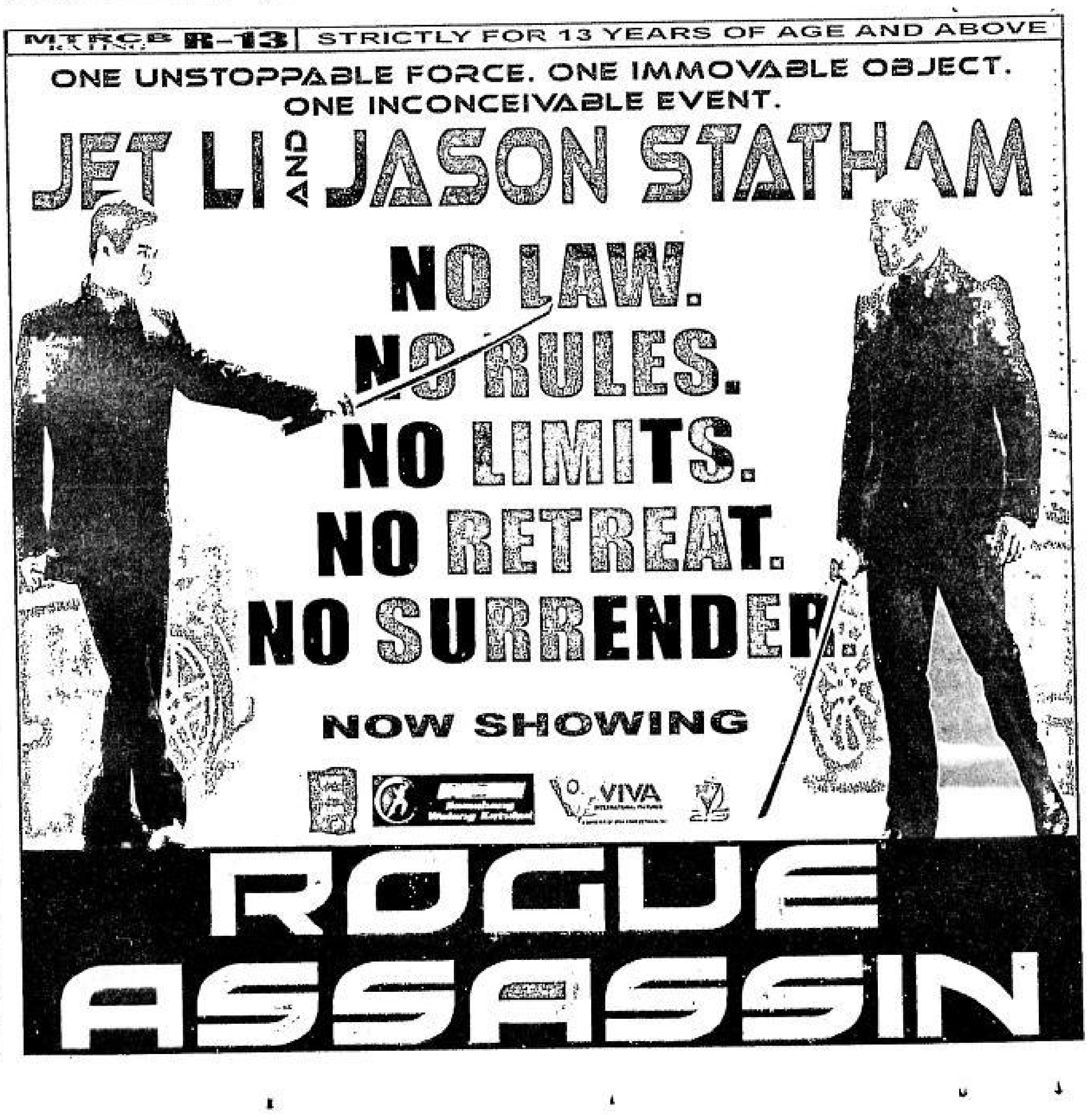
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JOSE JAVIER REYES

THE LIVING ROOM IN MY HOME IN Alabang has an orange wall, done by my friend Tats Manahan, who studied the *impasto* technique in Italy. It's like dyed *masilya*. On that wall is a painting entitled "Alkansiya" by Elmer Borlongan. He's a favorite of mine because he's very original, very Filipino. He belongs to a new generation of artists that I admire. I've also filled the house with Buddhas from all over Southeast Asia. Here, I feel far away from show biz, and I automatically go on rest mode. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

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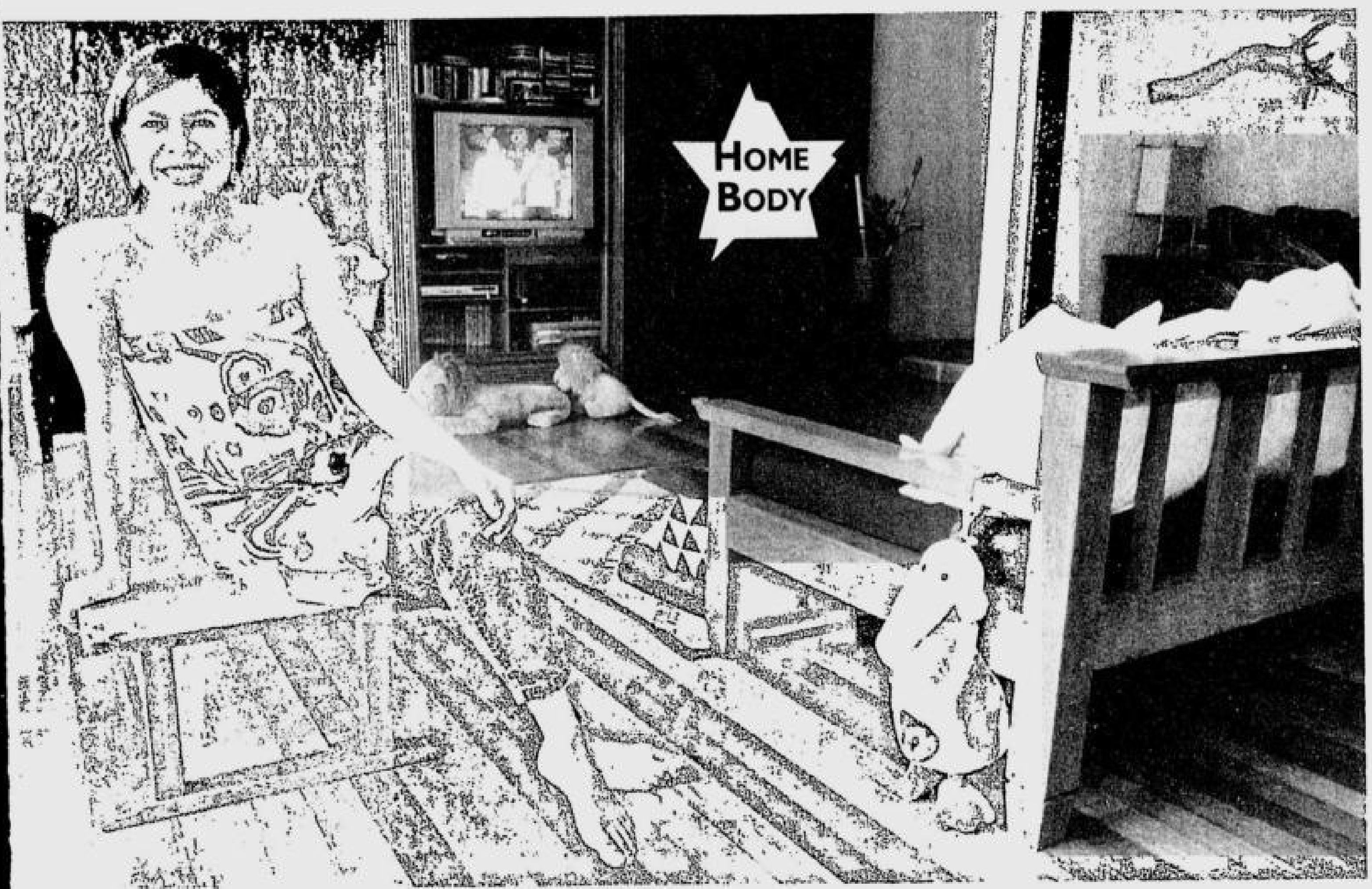

MINIMALIST, KID-FRIENDLY
Originally envisioned as "modish Asian," the home of TV host Suzi Entrata-Abrera was transformed into a children's playground, crammed with all sorts of toys, upon the arrival—in quick succession—of her three daughters. *Homebody, page 14.* RYAN LIM

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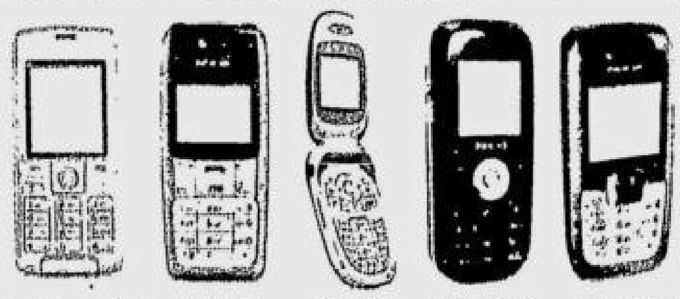

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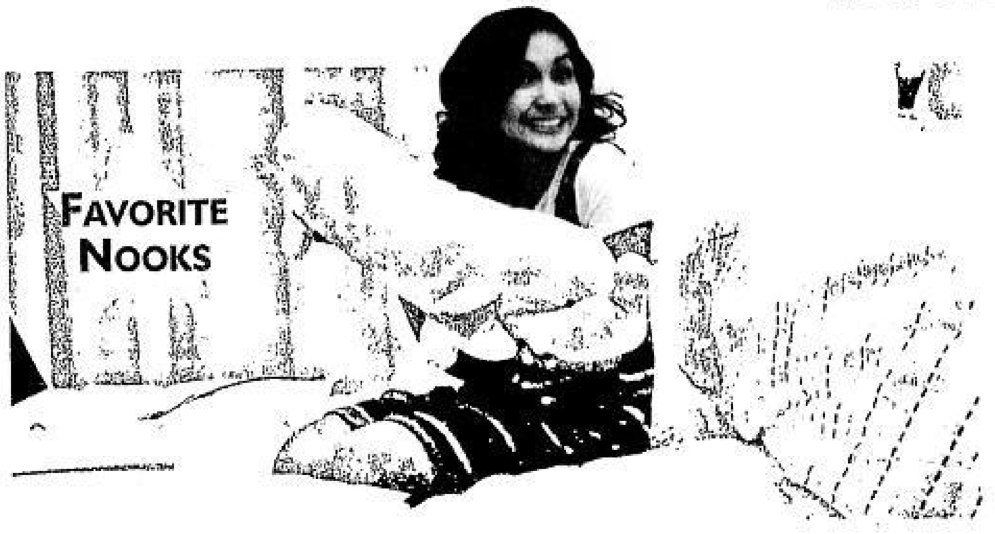

MARIEL RODRIGUEZ

When you're very tired after a long day at work, you just want to sleep. I rarely step out of my room when I'm home. I just watch TV. This is why it matters to me that my sheets are soft, smooth and comfy. Also, I cannot sleep without my favorite stuffed toy, Elepanty. I got him as a gift when I guested on "HomeBoy."

Marinel R. Cruz

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

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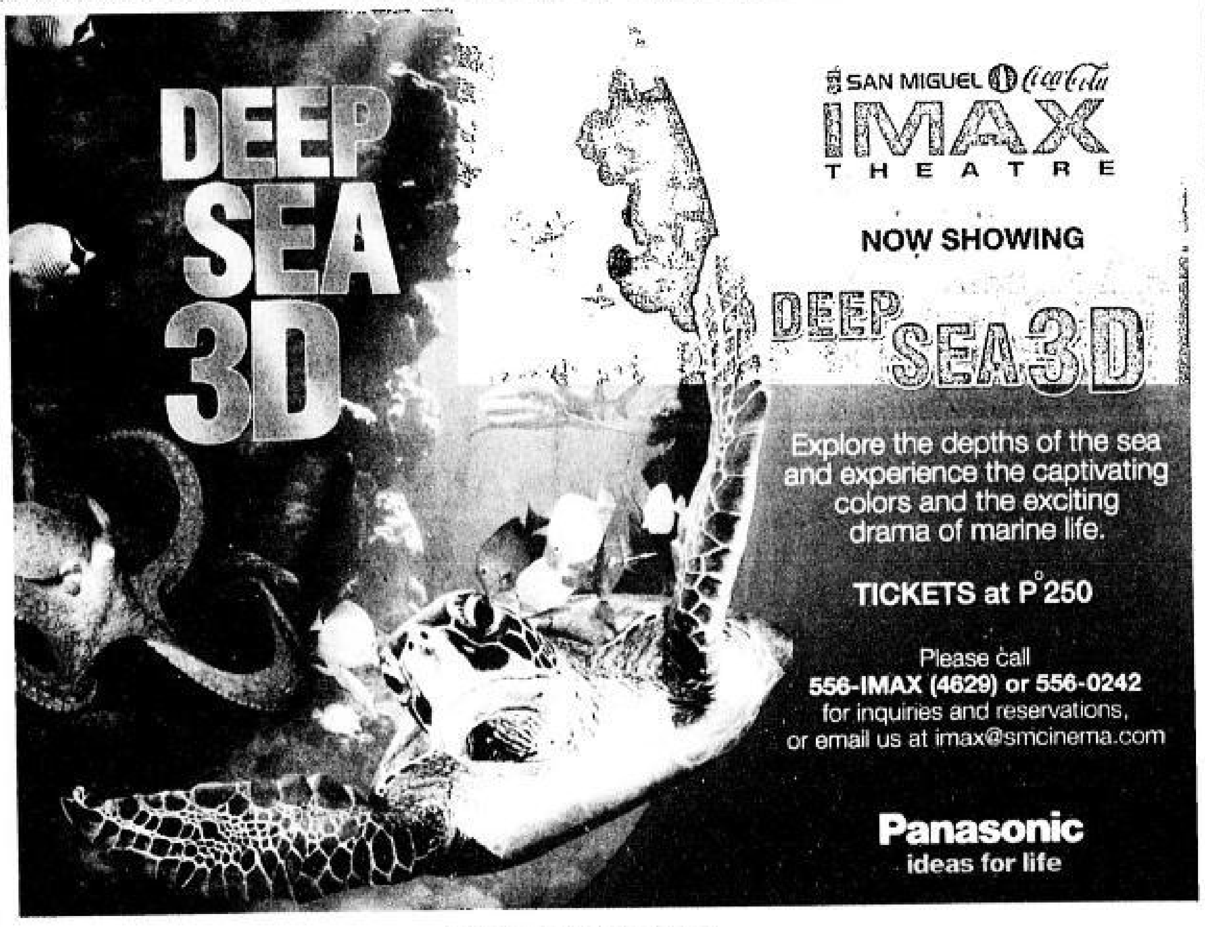

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ANINO NG SETYEMBRE/A LOVE STORY
8
9 RESERVED
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

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1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 UNDERDOG
6 FOSTER CHILD
7 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
8 1408
9 A LOVE STORY
10 INVASION
11 SKINWALKERS
12 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 1408
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 A LOVE STORY
9 SKINWALKERS
10 DAYWATCH
11 UNDERDOG
12 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE/DISTURBIA

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 UNDERDOG
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 1408
5 SKINWALKERS
7 DISTURBIA
8 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
9 A LOVE STORY
10 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 1408
4 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
5 THE BRAVE ONE
5 UNDERDOG

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 SKINWALKERS
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
7 1408
8 A LOVE STORY
9 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 NANCY DREW
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
4 1408
5 UNDERDOG
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 GANDHI, MY FATHER
8 FOSTER CHILD
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 A LOVE STORY
11 DISTURBIA
12 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 DAYWATCH
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 UNDERDOG

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
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2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 UNDERDOG
4 DISTURBIA

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
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2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG

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2 SKINWALKERS
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4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 UNDERDOG
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
8 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 1408
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 A LOVE STORY
6 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE/MY KUYA'S WEDDING

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1 1408
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3 UNDERDOG
4 DISTURBIA

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1 INVASION
2 UNDERDOG
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5 A LOVE STORY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

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2 1408
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2 UNDERDOG
3 A LOVE STORY
4 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
5 RISE
6 INVASION

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1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 INVASION
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

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1 HAIRSPRAY
2 INVASION
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 UNDERDOG
5 1408
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 RESERVED
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DISTURBIA
2 BUG
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG
5 ANINO NG SETYEMBRE
6 FOSTER CHILD
7 A LOVE STORY
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 UNDERDOG
2 INVASION
3 SINKING OF JAPAN
4 1408

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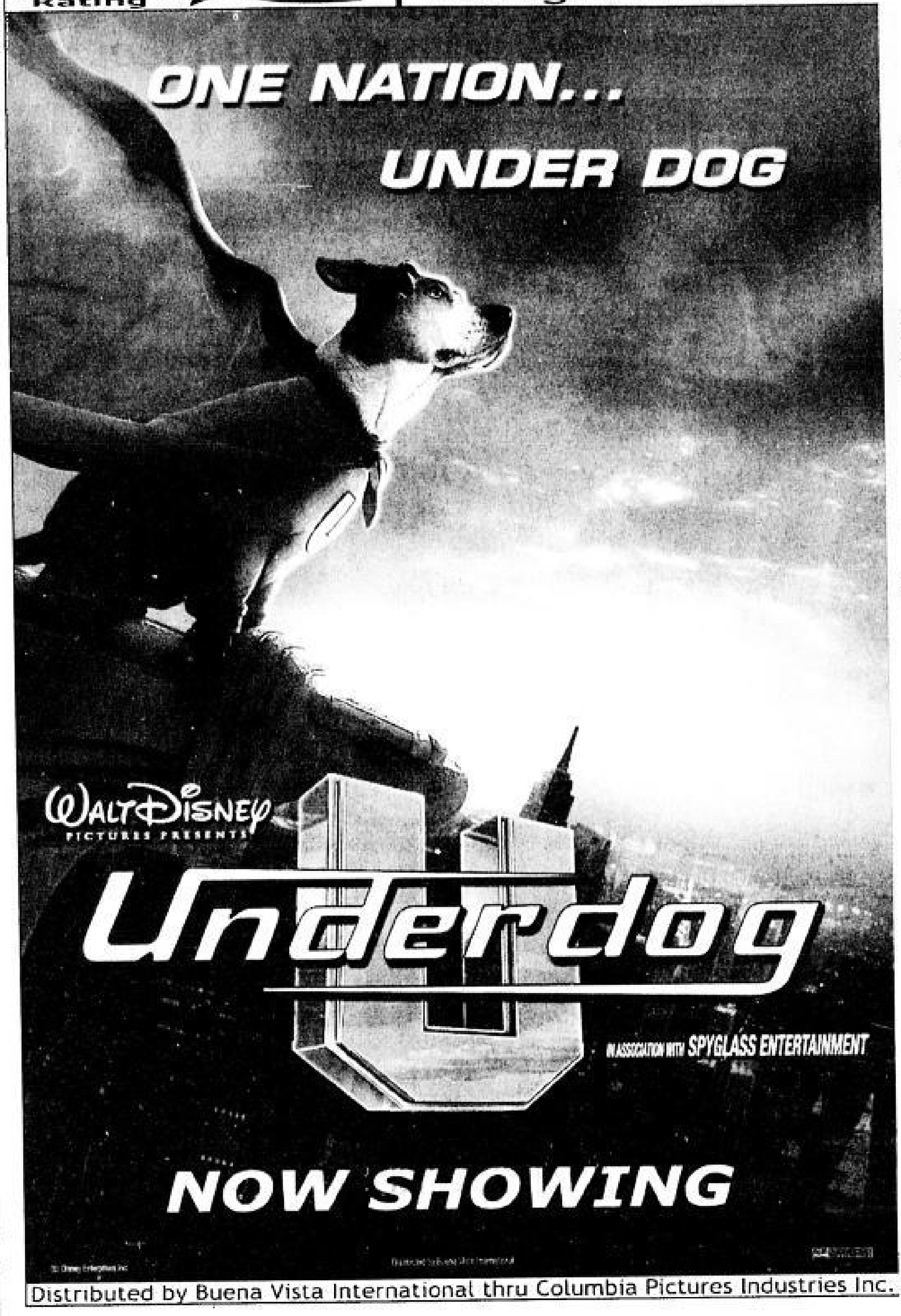
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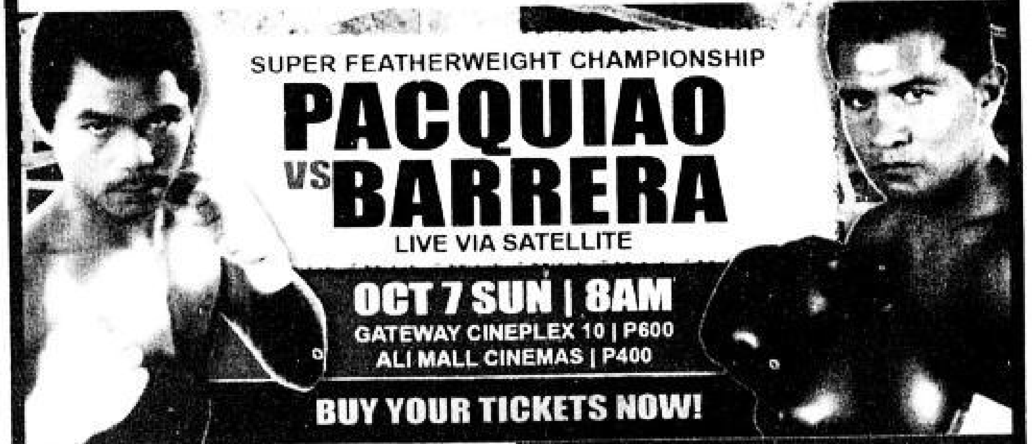

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1408 1:10 / 5:50 / 9:50 NANCY DREW 2:55 / 7:30	UNDERDOG 1:40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40	THE BRAVE ONE 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 10:00	
FOSTER CHILD 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	DISTURBIA 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 SKINWALKERS 3:20 / 7:40	A LOVE STORY 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	THE BRAVE ONE 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00

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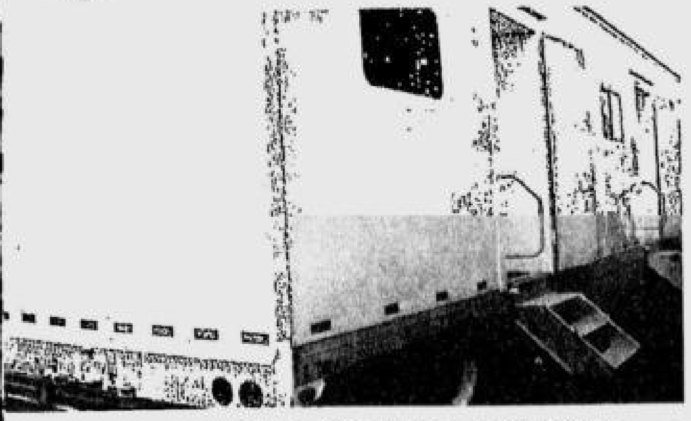

RHIAN RAMOS

Our Doberman Claw is 12 years old. We adopted her when her previous owners moved to England eight years ago. Her original name was Miss Claudia Something-Something. That was too long, so I nicknamed her Claw. I used to be scared of dogs. But Claw made me realize that dogs could also be sweet and gentle. She's now old and losing her coat, so we feed her Science Diet. Her ovary has been removed. I suspect she no longer knows whether she's a boy or a girl.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY RYAN LIM

IZA'S VAN This is Iza Calzado's van on the set of "The Echo," currently filming in Toronto. Posted on the trailer door is a sign that says "Gina," the name of her character. *InHollywood/HI.*

SHANG CINEPLEX

① UNDERDOG
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② THE BRAVE ONE
MTRCB R-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

③ ROGUE ASSASSIN
MTRCB R-13
2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

④ DISTURBIA
MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 3:00, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

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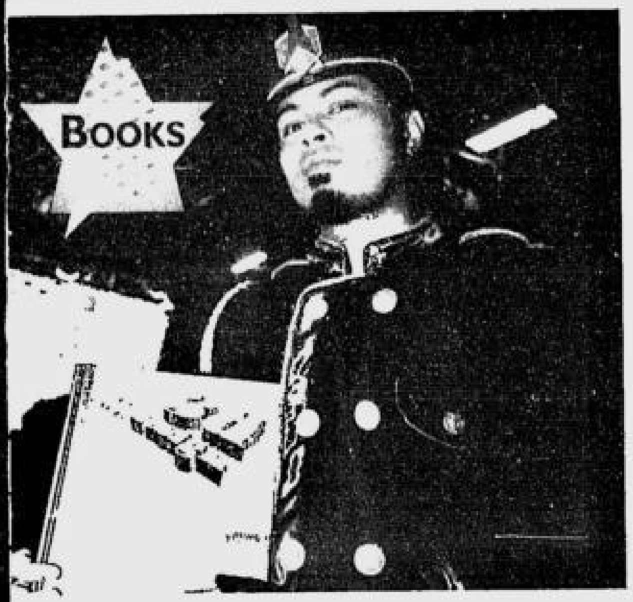

IAN DE LEON

I bought "Digital 3-D Design: The Use of 3-D Applications in Digital Graphic Design" by Simon Danaher because I'm really interested in animation. I watched "Ghostbusters" as a kid and became curious about how Slimer the ghost and the Marshmallow Man had been blended with real actors. Recently, I started doing research. I've also done some digital artwork. Perhaps, in the future, I could make short films, using computer software Maya and 3D Xmax.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY REM ZAMORA

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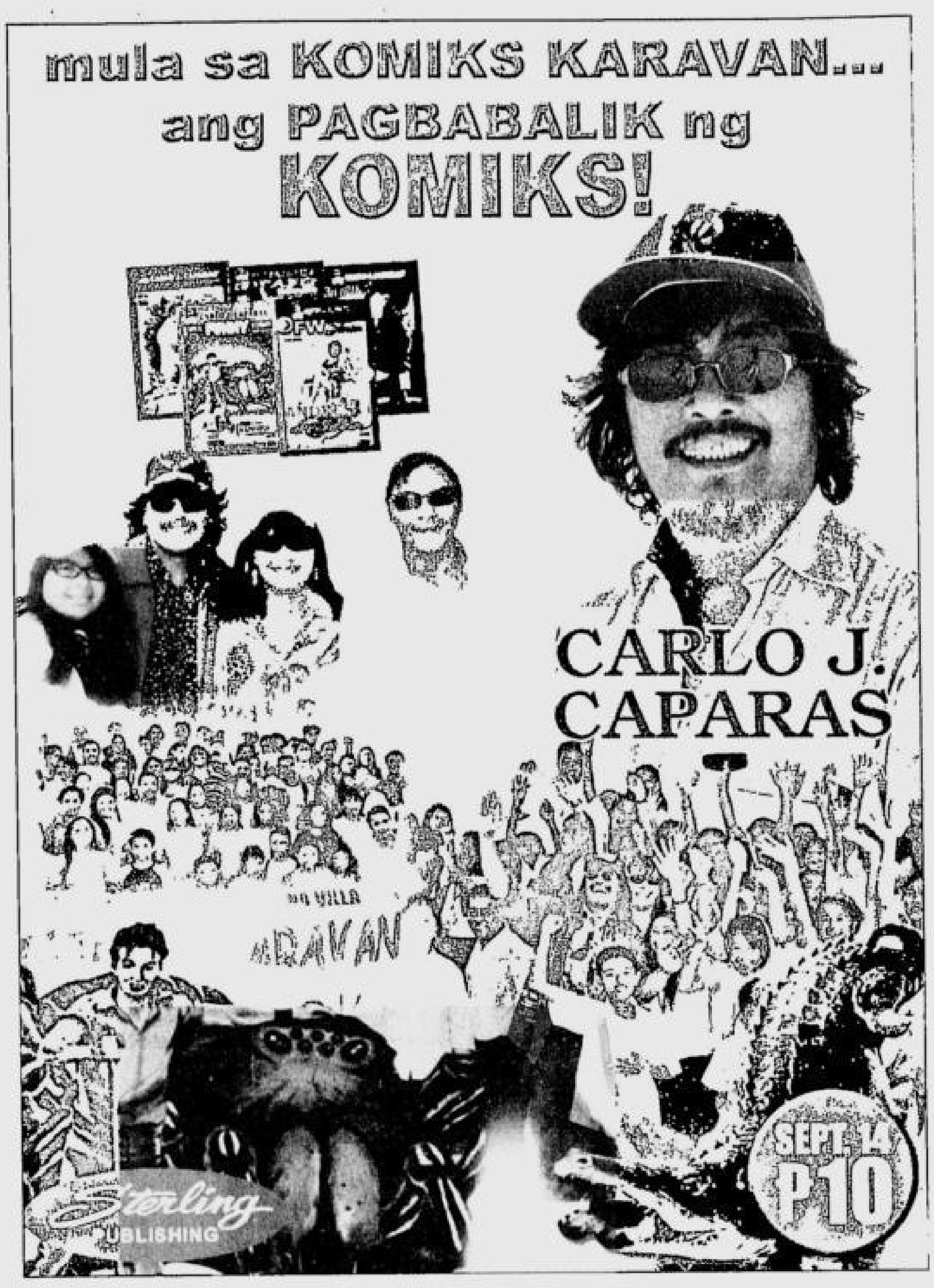
DISTURBIA PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME R13 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20	UNDERDOG G 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10
ROGUE ASSASSIN R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30	NANCY DREW G 12:20,2:30,4:40, 6:50,9:00	THE BRAVE ONE R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
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GLORIETTA 1	1 FOSTER CHILD	2 ROGUE ASSASIN	3 THE BRAVE ONE	4 DAYWATCH
GLORIETTA 4	1 UNDERDOG	2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	3 THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 NANCY DREW / THE INVASION	5 DISTURBIA	6 ROGUE ASSASIN	7 1408
GREENBELT 1	1 ROGUE ASSASIN	2 THE BRAVE ONE		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX ROGUE ASSASIN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS	4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME GUARANTEED SEATS	5 UNDERDOG GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE BRAVE ONE	2 ROGUE ASSASIN		
	3 UNDERDOG	4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	5 DISTURBIA	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DISTURBIA	2 UNDERDOG	3 PAN'S LABYRINTH	4 BUG
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ROGUE ASSASIN	2 FOSTER CHILD		
	3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	4 THE BRAVE ONE	5 UNDERDOG	
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	5 1408	6 ROGUE ASSASIN	7 THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	NREA - Housing Fair September 10 & 11, 2007 at the Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 12, 2007 at GB 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Exhibit September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt 1 Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiqueños: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2

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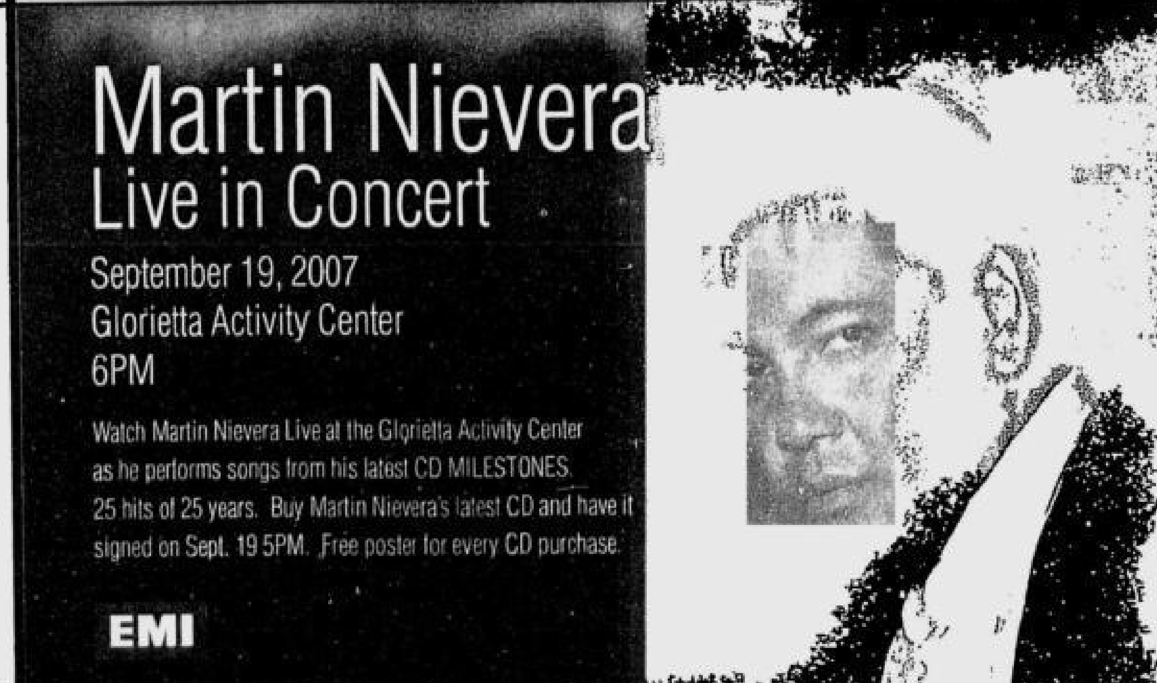

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September 19, 2007
Glorietta Activity Center
6PM

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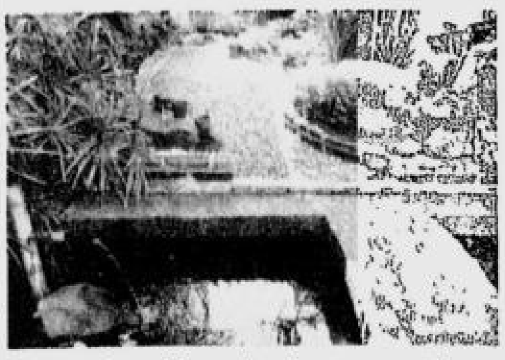
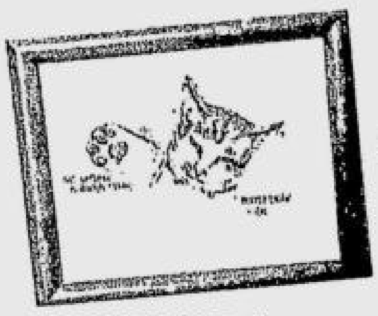
EMI

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma


ZEN garden with pond and water spouting from bamboo is "lucky," says Suzi.


MOM-IN-LAW Emily made this drawing of her cat Dilaw.

SUBURBAN living gives this working mom the best of both worlds—"Near the city, but laid-back."

Zen and the art of child-proofing

HOME BODY

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Ryan Lim

"VERY ZEN" IS HOW TV HOST SUZI Entrata-Abrera describes her sunny suburban home somewhere in Parañaque.

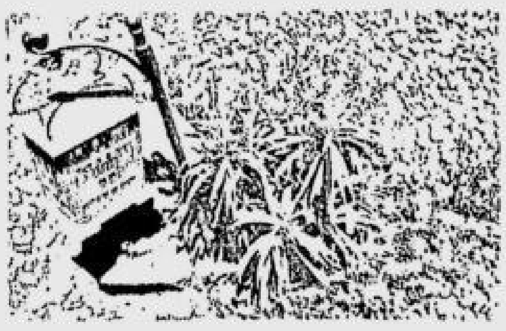
"It definitely reflects my personality as well as that of my husband's ("May Trabaho Ka" host) Paolo Abrera. We prefer earthy, Asian stuff," Suzi explains.

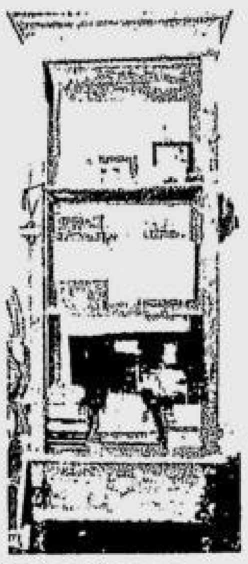
Wood lends the home a cozy, warm feeling, she points out. For example, the narra floor panels provide a striking contrast to the adobe wall in the living room.

"My [late] father-in-law Caloy was a great influence on Paolo. He taught him not only to love, but also how to take care of wood. Paolo has a special glove and rug that he uses to polish wood. He even puts linseed oil on the pieces."

The wooden daybed in the living room was designed by Paolo and executed by the couple's regular carpenter, Robert.

"Paolo is also into carpentry. He has made chairs and several other pieces. Now, he's an avid bladesmith. We have a *pandayan* at the back of our house."


JAPANESE brass lamps in the garden were borrowed from her father. "We never returned them!"


CABINET from mother-in-law's old office now stands in the foyer area.

KITCHEN counter is made of recycled narra from old staircase. The floor tiles framed in wood was Suzi's idea.

Suzi says they usually shop for home pieces in Chinatown and on Laong Laan.

"Paolo found the antique doors [of the bedrooms and main entrance] on Laong Laan. The kitchen counter was also recycled, made from an old narra staircase," she says.

"The Oriental light fixtures were from Chinatown. Paolo chose them because they look like kendo masks."

A kendo practitioner, Paolo also crafted the wooden frame on which an authentic kendo mask rests. "He practices on that, hitting it with bamboo sticks."

She proudly notes that most of the furniture and décor are "hand-me-down" presents from family and friends.

"We got the dining table from my mother-in-law (McCann Erickson chair emeritus) Emily Abrera. She also gave us her old office cabinet, which is now in the foyer," says Suzi. "Paolo's father also gave us the Chinese armoire, which we turned into an entertainment center."

Former "Game Plan" boss Cheche Lazaro sent over a red sofa as wedding gift. The paintings are also presents.

Mom-friendly career

"My mother-in-law made the drawings of her two cats, Dilaw and Puti," she relates. "Paolo's uncle Jon Altomonte, a painter, gave us some of his work, as well as one by his friend, Malang. Another pal of his, Jaime de Guzman, gave us paintings and pottery."

Adorning the staircase are more art pieces: a colorful abstract mother-and-child by Suzi's friend Anya Santos; Suzi's glamour photo by Eric Teng (owner of clothes shop Maldita); and Suzi's craypas oil portrait by Saturday Group member Onie Hermoso.

After all, a working mom calls this home.

"Mommy-friendly career," Suzi says of her work as host of GMA 7's "Unang Hirit" and QTV's "Nutroplex, Iba na ang Matalino Brain Challenge."

"Both are kid-friendly shows," she adds. "My kids watch 'Nutroplex' with me and my eldest answers the questions." Suzi and Paolo are proud parents to three girls: Leona, 4 years old; Jade, 2; Antonella, 1.

Suzi recalls: "When we first moved in after our wedding in 2001, we envisioned our home as Asian, minimalist, clean."

Three kids later, the Zen décor is overrun with stuffed toys.

"We've also put plastic corners on the wooden furniture's sharp edges," she says. "But it's okay. Having kids has added so much life and color to the place."

WITH firstborn Leona. Suzi says The native mat protects the narra floors from hyper kids.

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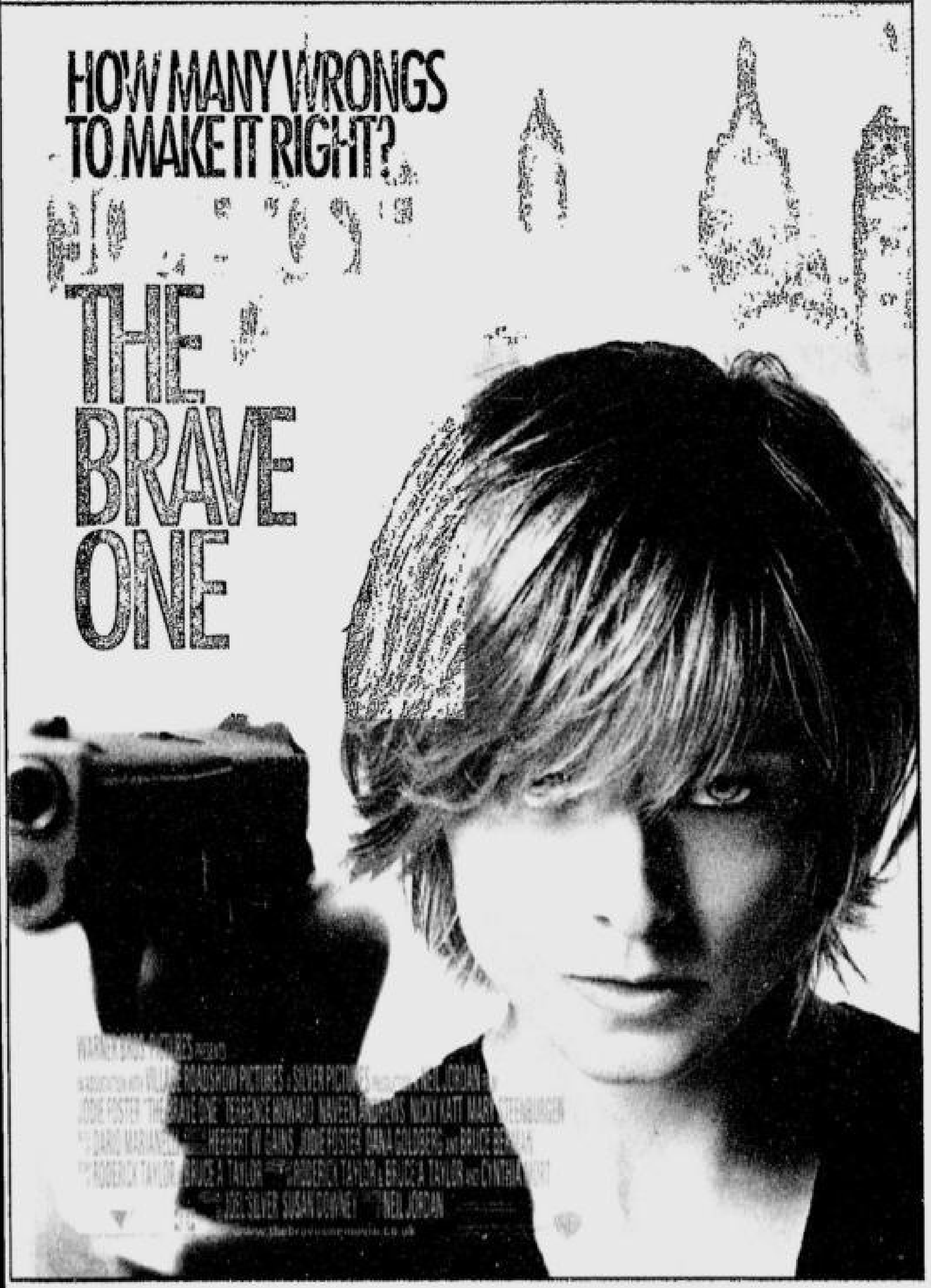
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2	DISTURBIA	3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
3	UNDERDOG	2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55	G
4	WAR: ROGUE ASSASSIN	12:45, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05,10:40	R-13

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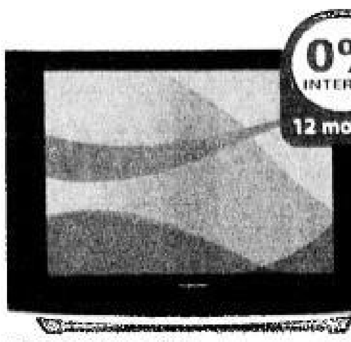

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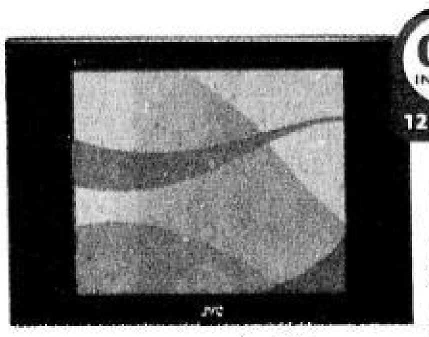

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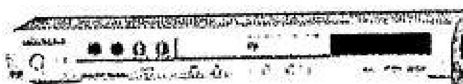

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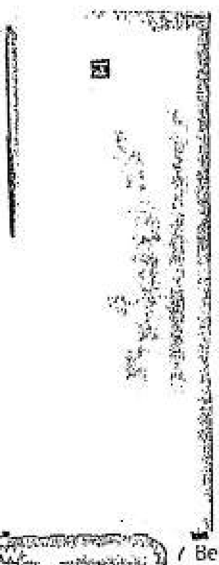

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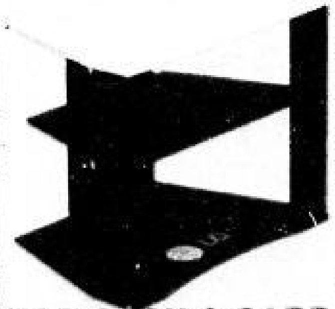
21FB3RB ⇨		3 MONTHS		TV RACK  FOR CASH & CARD
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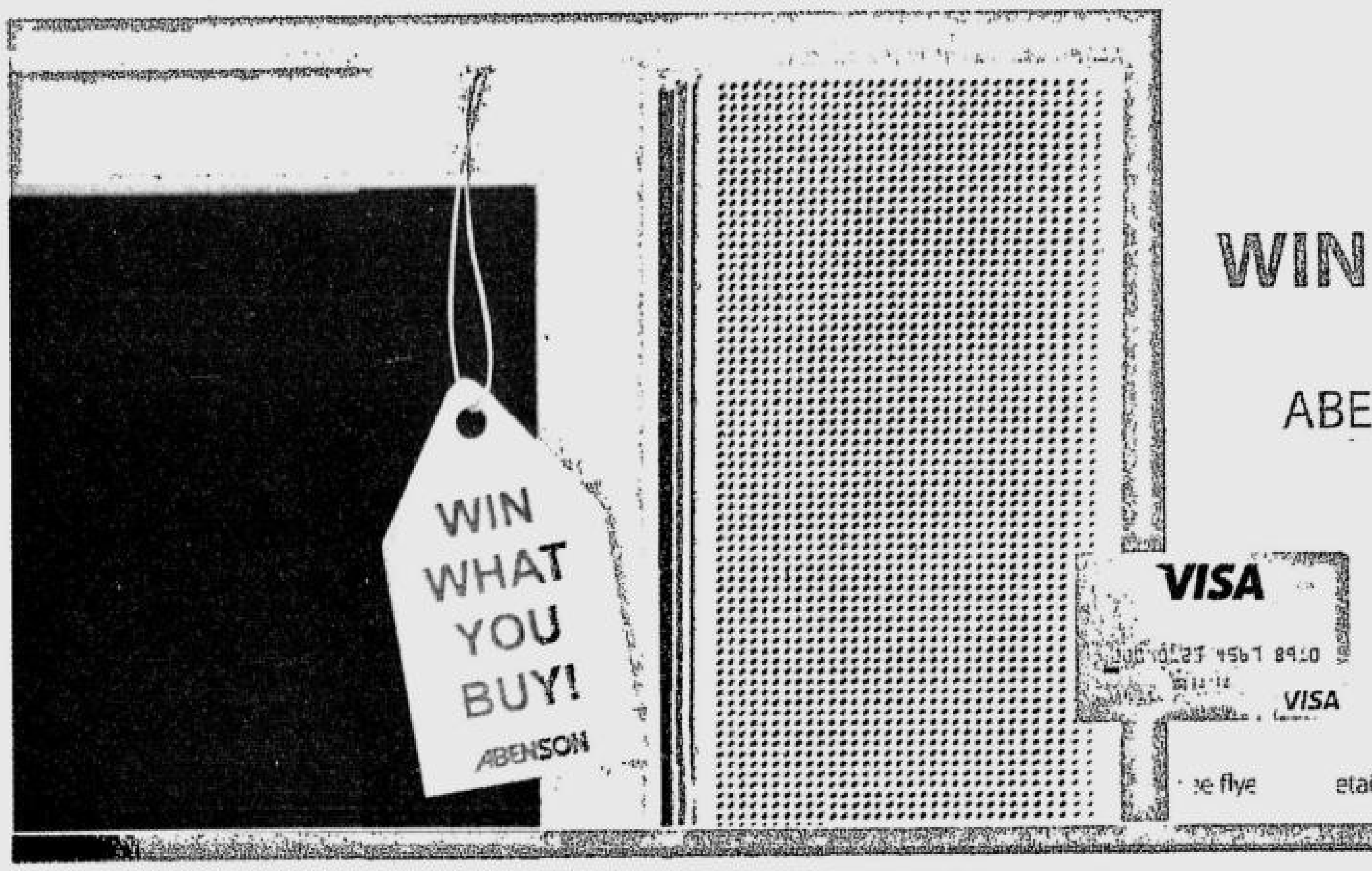
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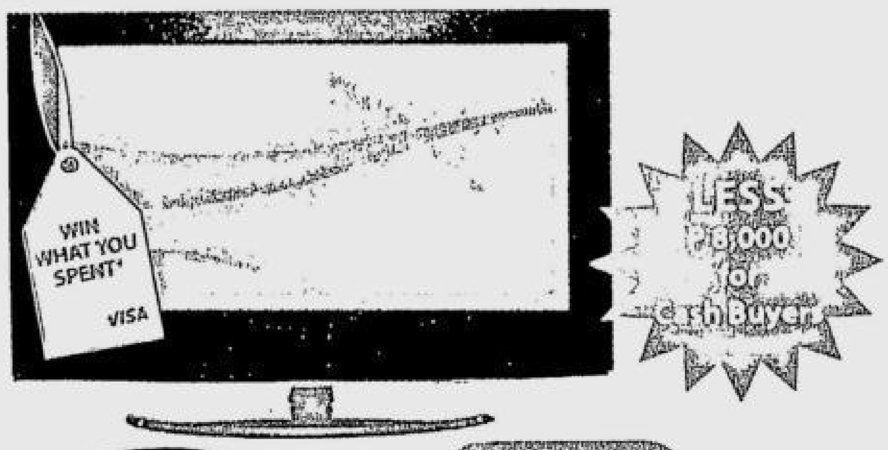
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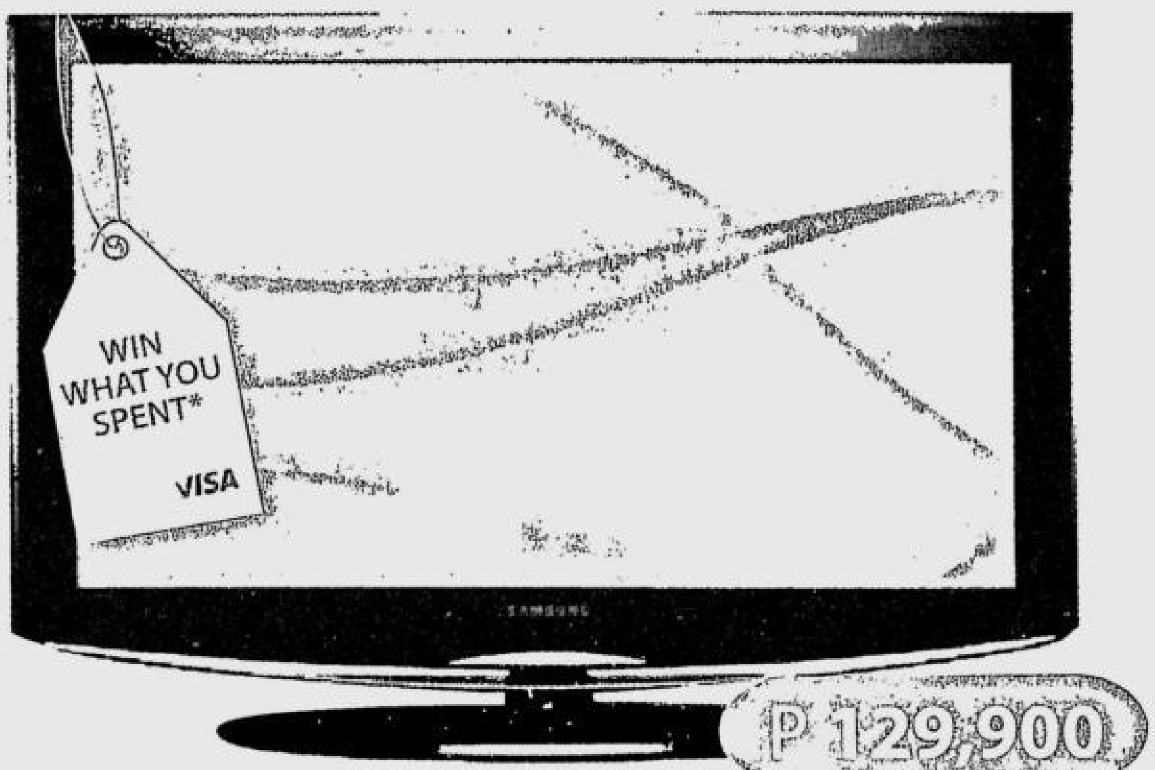
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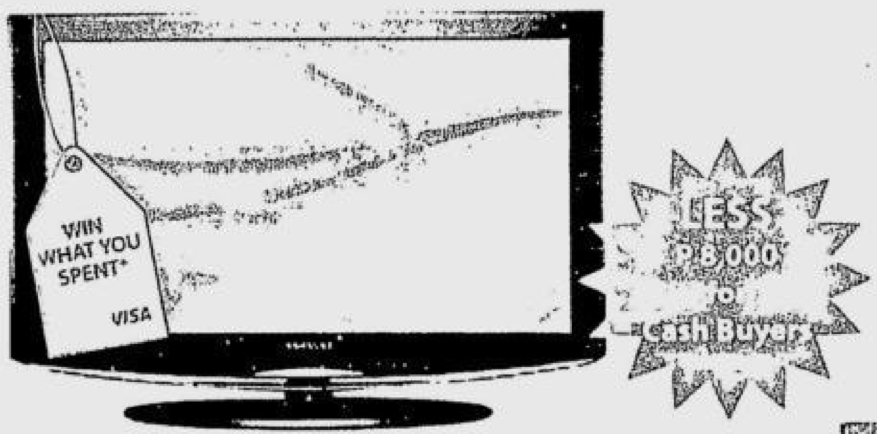
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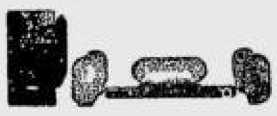

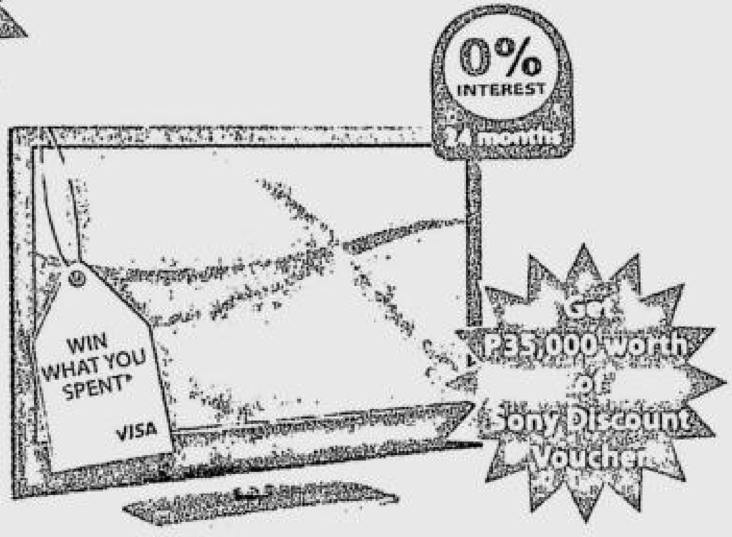
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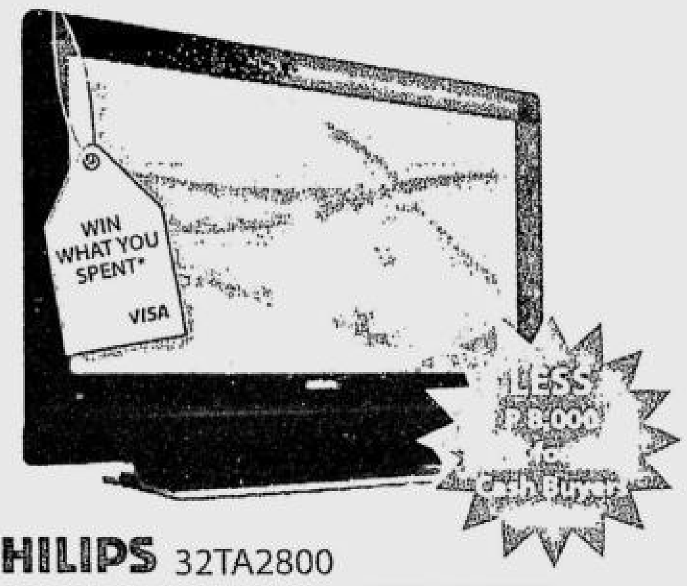
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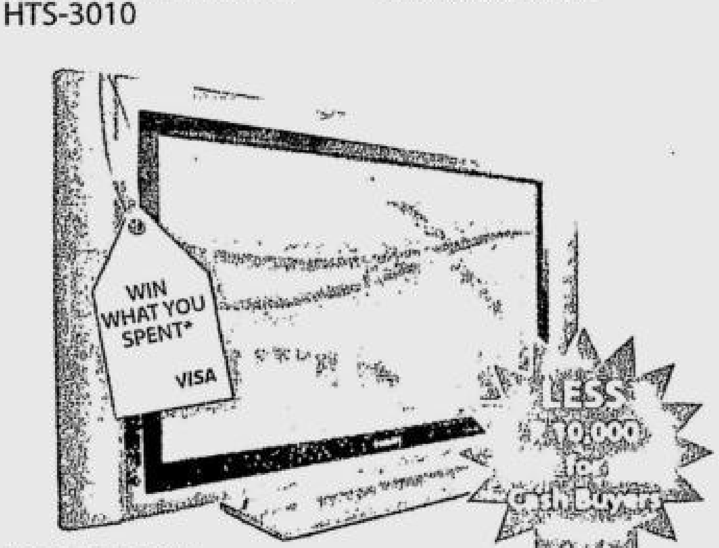
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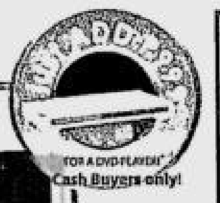
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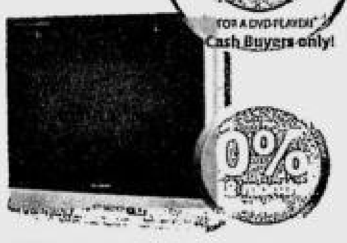

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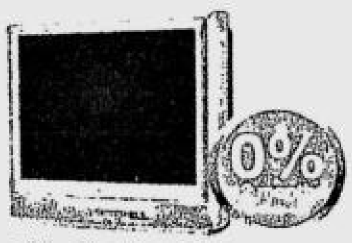

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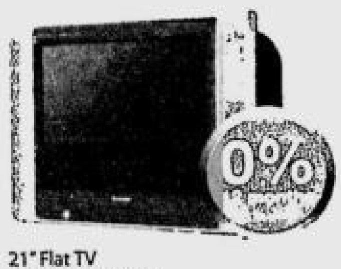

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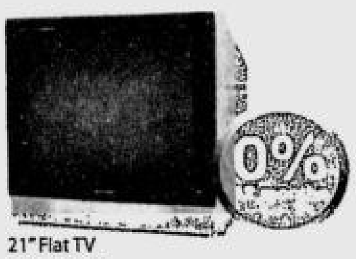

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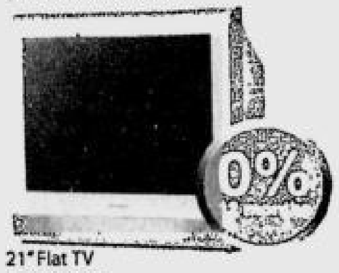

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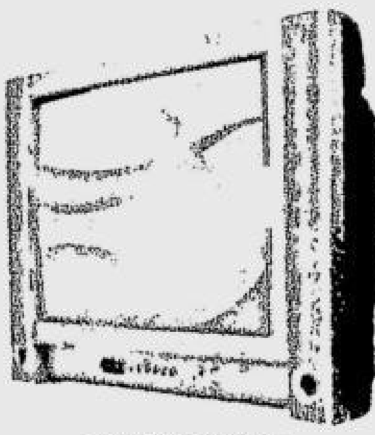
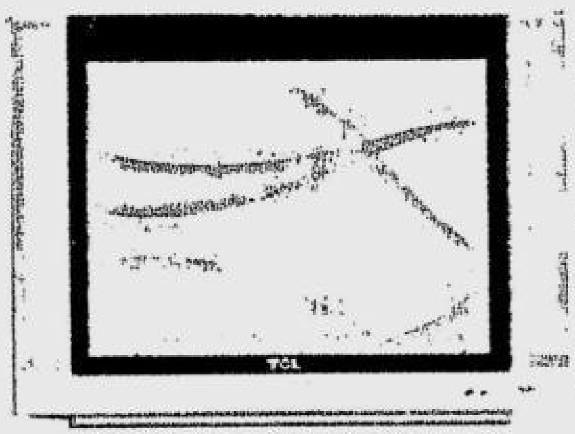
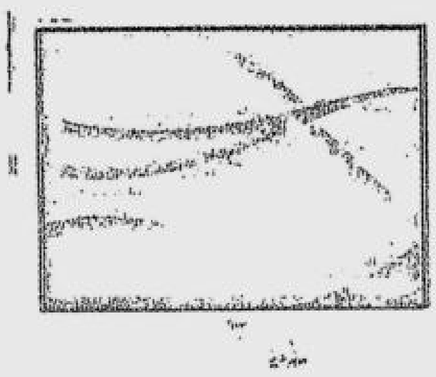


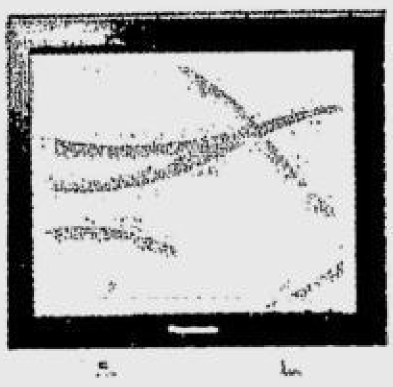
SANYO
ST-21CE1
21" Conventional TV,
₱5,995



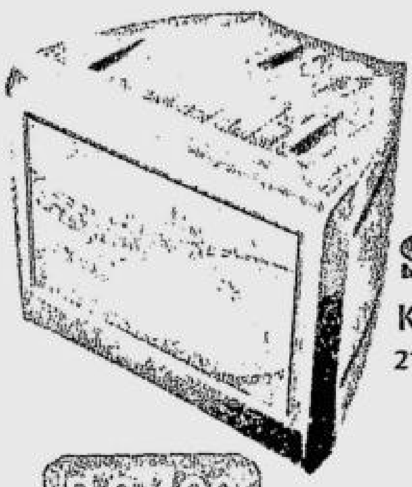
TCL
21E11
21" Conventional TV,
FREE TCL Gift Pack
₱6,195



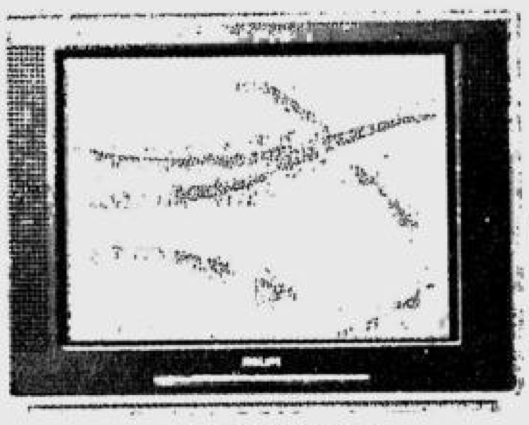
LG
RP-21F3RB
21" Flat TV,
₱7,499



Panasonic
TC-21FX20P
21" Flat TV
FREE TV Rack
₱9,699



SONY
KV-BZ213N50
21" Flat TV
₱9,490



PHILIPS
21PT5026
21" Flat TV
₱9,980

SANYO

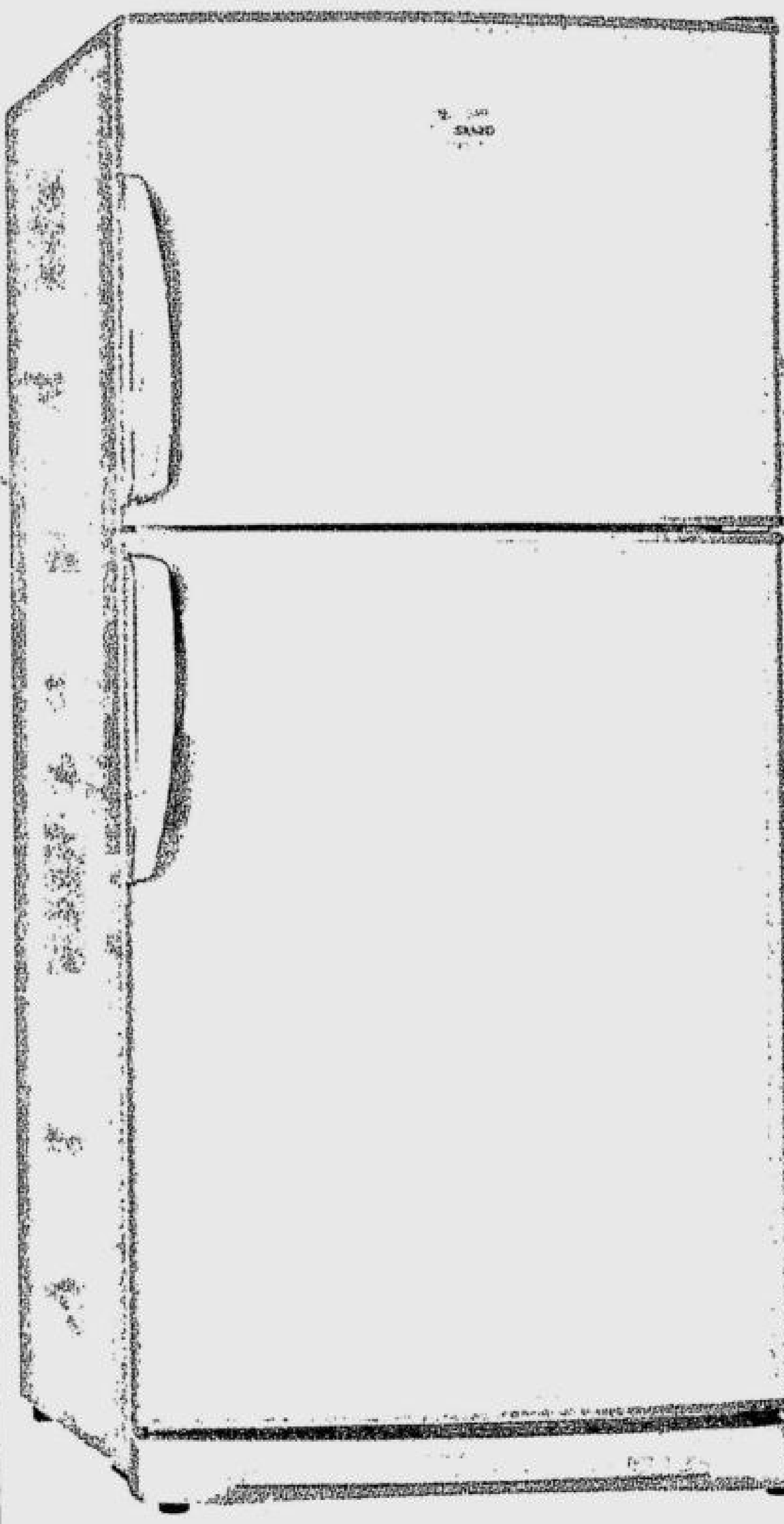
Upgrade to a Sanyo no-frost ref & downgrade your electric bill.

Now's best time to get a SANYO No Frost Refrigerator.

Stylishly designed with a highly efficient compressor, Sanyo no frost refs shave up to 25% off your electric bill.

Sanyo's Nano Ferrite System also protects your family from harmful viruses, fungi and bacteria. A Vitamin C Fresh Filter keeps your fruits and vegetables crisp and fresh all day, all night.

Sanyo No Frost Refs.
Upgrade now. You deserve it.



25% ENERGY SAVING

Extreme Cool | Protection | Functional | Durability

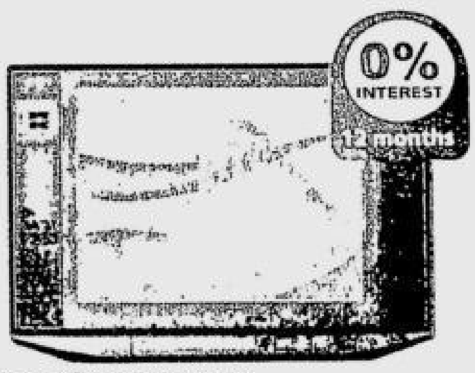
SR-F78M(SS)
NO-FROST
2-door refrigerator
18.0 cu. ft.

Features:

High Efficiency Motor Compressor
Twin Fan Motor (DC/AC)
Electronic Control
Wide Multi Air Flow and Side Air Flow System
UV-LED Platinum Beam Deodorizer
Nano Ferrite System
Vitamin C Fresh Filter
Jumbo Crisper & Moisture control
Tempered Glass Shelves
Freezer Lamp / Triple twist ice tray
New Press Designed Door & Grip Handle
Smooth Wheel & Adjust – Level Button
(Also available in 15.0, 12.0. 10.0 cu. ft. models.)

Klexo
No-Frost Refrigerators

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING APPLIANCE STORES NATIONWIDE



SONY
KV-HG21N50
21" Flat TV
₱10,990

0% INTEREST
12 months

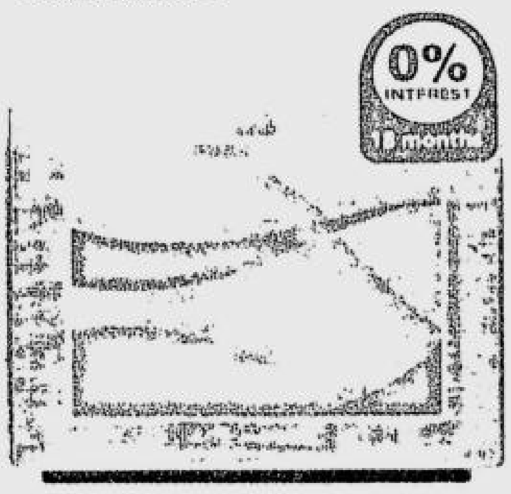
SAMSUNG
CT21Z57MQ
21" Flat TV, Slim Fit
₱12,995

FREE TV Racl
ADD P1,990 for
DVD-260K

0% INTEREST
12 months

JVC
AV-25MT16
25" Flat TV
₱15,990

ADD P1,990 fo
DVD Player



PHILIPS
29PT5005
29" Flat TV
₱16,980

ABENSON

Super Sulit Coupons

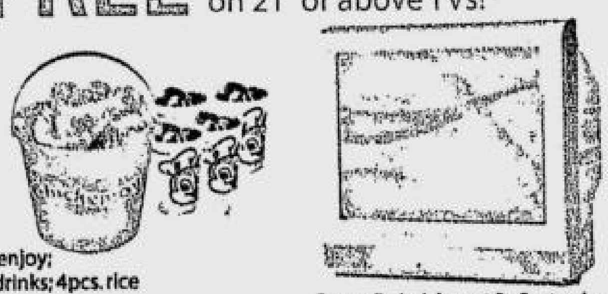
Para Sigurado mag-ABENSON

Get Freebies & Discounts!

September 2007
(Promo Period: Aug 3-Sept.15, 2007)

Cut out these coupon and get these exclusive deals from Abenson!

FREE Jollibee Bucket Meal
on 21" or above TVs!



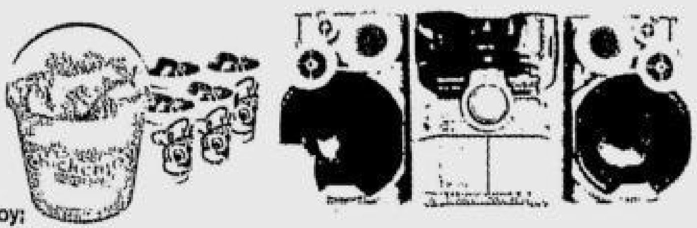
6pcs. Chikenjoy;
4 regular drinks; 4pcs. rice

Terms and Conditions apply
1. Present this coupon to avail of promo.
2. Applicable on Cash & Card Purchases only.
3. Strictly 1 coupon per transaction.
4. Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions.
5. Coupon is non-convertible to cash and non-changeable to other products.

Promo Period: August 3 - September 15, 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2121 Series of 2007

FREE Jollibee Bucket Meal
on selected components!



6pcs. Chikenjoy;
4 regular drinks; 4pcs. rice

Terms and Conditions apply
1. Present this coupon to avail of promo.
2. Applicable on Cash & Card Purchases only.
3. Strictly 1 coupon per transaction.
4. Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions.
5. Coupon is non-convertible to cash and non-changeable to other products.

Promo Period: August 3 - September 15, 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2121 Series of 2007

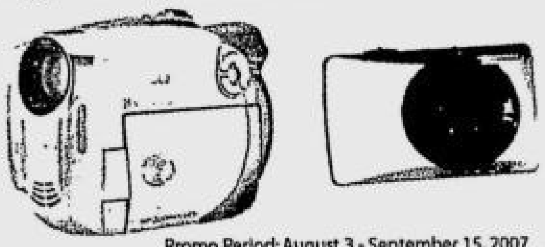
LESS P1,000 on Philips HTS-3000!

Terms and Conditions apply
1. Present this coupon to avail of promo.
2. Applicable on Cash & Card Purchases only.
3. Strictly 1 coupon per transaction.
4. Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions.
5. Coupon is non-convertible to cash and non-changeable to other products.

Promo Period: August 3 - September 15, 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3588 Series of 2007

FREE One Dozen Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
..hen ..u bu.. ..ny digital or video ca..



Available in all Electroworld stores and in the following branches Alabang, Avant Greenbelt, Avant Trinoma, Congressional, Ermita, Filinvest, Galleria, Glorietta, Libis, Market Market, Missouri, Shangrila, SM North Edsa, St. Francis, Walter Mart Makati

Terms and Conditions apply
1. Present this coupon to avail of promo.
2. Applicable on Cash & Card Purchases only.
3. Strictly 1 coupon per transaction.
4. Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions.
5. Coupon is non-convertible to cash and non-changeable to other products.

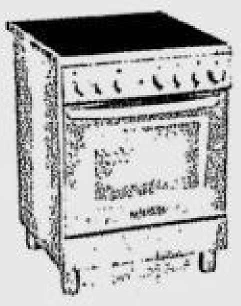
Promo Period: August 3 - September 15, 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3590 Series of 2007

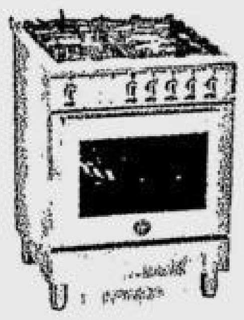
ABENSON

Cook in Style

DIAMANTE by laGERMANIA

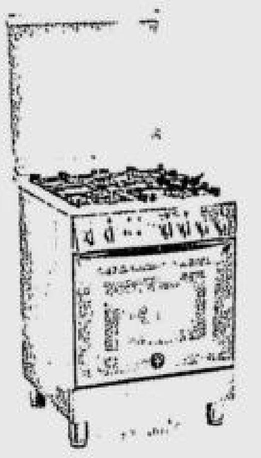


D60E 60X
WORKTOP: 1 large, 1medium, 2 small electric ceramic cooktops
OVEN: Electric multifunction 9 settings
OVEN CAPACITY:
STAINLESS STEEL BODY

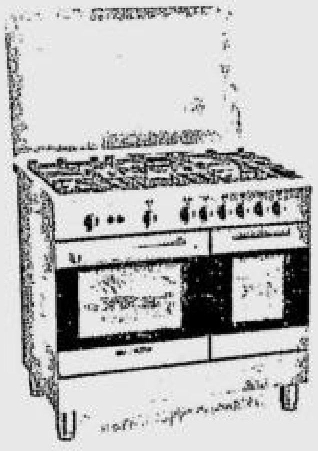


V64C 21X
WORKTOP: 3 gas, 1 triple ring burner
OVEN CAPACITY:
OVEN: Gas oven with thermostat and electric grill
STAINLESS STEEL BODY

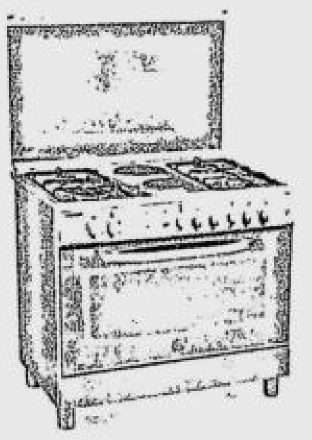
V95C 71X
WORKTOP: 4 gas, 1 triple ring burner
OVEN: Gas oven with thermostat and electric grill, fan assited
OVEN CAPACITY:
STAINLESS STEEL BODY



H64C 71X
WORKTOP: 3 gas, 1 triple ring burner
OVEN: Gas oven with electric grill / fan assisted
OVEN CAPACITY:
STAINLESS STEEL BODY



ND5C 71X
WORK TOP: 4 gas, 1 triple ring burner
OVEN: 1 60X60, 1 30X30
OVEN CAPACITY:
STAINLESS STEEL BODY



D982 21X
WORKTOP: 3 gas, 1 triple ring burner, 2 electric hotplates
OVEN: Electric multifunction 9 settings
OVEN CAPACITY:
STAINLESS STEEL BODY

Available at:
ABENSON Appliance Center

• Abenson Rosario Cavite • Abenson Greenhills • Abenson Circle C • Abenson Cubao • Abenson Ever Gotesco Commonwealth • Abenson Fairview • Abenson Farmers Plaza • Abenson Libis • Abenson Quezon City • Abenson SM City North Edsa • Abenson Robinsons Galleria • Abenson Angeles • Abenson Bay City • Abenson Pavilion • Abenson Nueva Ecija • Abenson Sta Lucia • Abenson Calamba • Abenson Araneta Square • Abenson Ever Gotesco • Abenson Carmona • Abenson Dasmarinas • Abenson General Trias • Abenson Lotus • Abenson Robinsons Place Imus • Abenson Las Pinas • Abenson Lipa • Abenson Lucena • Abenson Dau • Abenson Avant Greenbelt • Abenson Makati • Abenson Quad • Abenson Alabang • Abenson Filinvest • Abenson Metropolis • Abenson Pearl Plaza • Abenson Pasay • Abenson Ever Gotesco • Abenson Plaridel

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ABENSON

BATANGAS
Bay City Mall (043) 723-6790 / 0934; TF 520-6189
BOHOL
Island City Mall (038) 501-8206; TF (038) 411-5381
CAVITE
Emperor Mall Rosario (040) 438-6450 / 57; TF 529-6503
Fiesta World Mall Lipa (043) 757-3142; TF 644-5915
Lotus Mall Imus (046) 515-5749 / 51; TF 670-01451
Robinsons Place Imus (046) 471-8320 / 30; TF 529-8603
Waltermart Carmona (046) 430-2707 / 03; TF 520-8063
Waltermart Dasmarinas (046) 416-2104 / 07; TF 529-8102
Waltermart General Trias (046) 419-1146 / 1137; TF 683-0503
BULACAN
Waltermart Plaridel (044) 795-3271 to 73; TF 693-0048
CABANATUAN
NE Pacific Mall (044) 940-1481 / 82; TF 943-1480
CUBAO
New Farmer's Plaza 911-1103 / 1494; TF 911-1071
Rustans 911-2375 / 2484 / 2306, TF 911-2313
GAPAN
Waltermart Gapan (044) 486-7047 / 48; TF 711-2811
KALOOKAN
Ever Grand Central 363-3346 / 5388 / 5246 TF 363-3202
LAGUNA
Ayala Pavilion Mall Binan (049) 411-4510 / 11; TF 520-8209
Ultimart San Pablo (049) 562-7034 / 35; TF 839-4102
Waltermart Calamba (049) 545-7034 / 35; TF 520-8317
Waltermart Sta. Rosa (049) 534-4069 / 19; TF 520-8180
LEGASPI
LCC Mall (052) 480-7549; TF: 429-1520
Pacific Mall (052) 480-6208 / 820-4306; TF 429-1521
LUCENA
Pacific Mall (042) 373-0443; TF: 743-7200
MAKATI
Greenbelt 4 758-2315 to 20; TF 758-2320
Glorietta 1 812-7745 / 9425, 816-3991, 818-6453, 819-3553, TF 812-8310, 894-0951
Waltermart Makati 812-2852 / 1352 / 1353 / 1584, TF 812-1544
MALABON
Malabon Citisquare 287-0478 / 0344 / 9932; TF 287-0827
MANDALUYONG
Sheridan 631-5158 / 8101 loc. 122; TF: 633-9812
MANILA
Harrison Plaza 521-6560 / 63 / 08 / 89 / 94; TF 521-8508
Puregold Tayuman 252-5786 / 87 / 98; TF 252-5879
Robinsons Ermita 536-7914, 400-0249; 538-8029
MARIKINA
Riverbank Mall 941-3811 / 5003 / 5180 / 5191; 941-4290
MUNTINLUPA
Alabang 850-8850 / 8314 / 9038, TF 807-1423
Filinvest Festival Mall 850-3779; 842-2540 / 2951 TF 850-3779
Metropolis 809-8174 / 8921; TF: 809-8172
NAGA
LCC Metro 250-8003; (054) 473-8003, 811-2840; TF: (054) 811-8623
ORTIGAS
Robinsons Galleria 632-9101 to 05; 632-9117; TF 632-9104
Shangri-La 638-8017 to 18 / 49 / 65, TF 638-8023
St. Francis Square 633-1362 to 64, 638-7260, TF: 638-7253
PAMPANGA
Nepo Mall Angeles (045) 888-9006; TF: 248-6340
Puregold Dau (045) 892-4205, 624-0268; TF 248-6341
PARANAQUE
Jaka Plaza 829-2006 / 87 / 9325, TF: 829-2008
Pearl Plaza 831-8401 / 03, TF: 831-8402
PASAY
Metropoint Mall 833-7085 / 8106; TF: 833-7829
PASIG
Puregold Buting 641-4452, TF 642-1887
Ever Gotesco Pasig 656-6643 / 44 / 45, 656-6648
QUEZON CITY
Trinoma 901-3550 to 52; TF: 901-9553
Circle C Congressional 927-9300 / 9320 / 8561; TF 927-9548
Eastwood Libis 687-1813 / 1698 / 2373; TF 687 1778
Ever Gotesco Commonwealth 951-4575 / 8091; TF 951-4537
Fairview Center Mall 939 7906, TF 937-8911
Puregold Commonwealth 932-2032 / 3508; TF 932 3148
Puregold E. Rodriguez 784-1234 / 1313; TF 784 1222
SM City North Edsa 920-8151 to 53; 927-8506 / 18, 929-6671, TF 928-8829
Waltermart E. Rodriguez 722-7203; 724-2501 / 2570
RIZAL
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Phase 1 645-0402 / 0404 / 8311, TF 645-4830
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Phase 2 681-5301 to 05, TF 681-5306
SAN JUAN
Greenhills 721-1719 / 0590; 722-1264 / 4187 / 1820, TF 722-1281
[illegible]
Marisol Market 886-6820 / 6491 / 6492; TF: (045) 985-1278
TARLAC
Plaza Luisita (045) 985-1245; TF: (045) 985-1278
VALENZUELA
Puregold Valenzuela 277-9538 / 38 / 39; TF 277-9850

Thinking of you
Electrolux

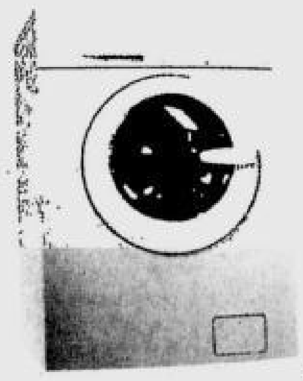
Every home deserves an Electrolux

Get an Electrolux Washing Machine **NOW** for **ONLY**

P1,329.25/mo.

0% interest for **24** months.*

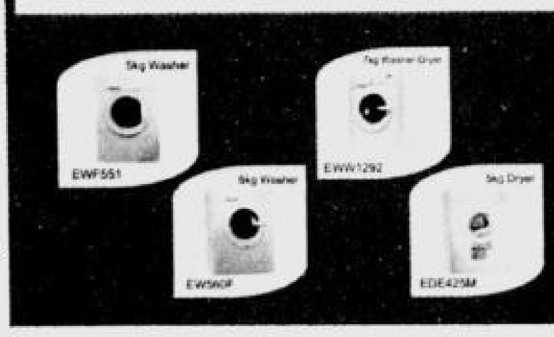
Take advantage of this limited offer from P34,000 to **P31,900**



EW880F
7kg capacity

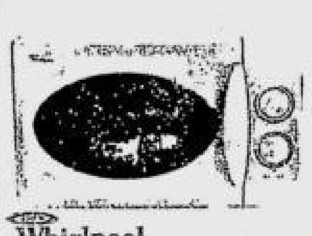
Also get a **free i-cute vacuum cleaner** from September 1 to October 31, 2007.

* 0% interest is valid if monthly bills are paid in full. Subject to bank approval. Accepted credit cards vary per dealer per DTI-NCR permit no. 4232 series of 2007



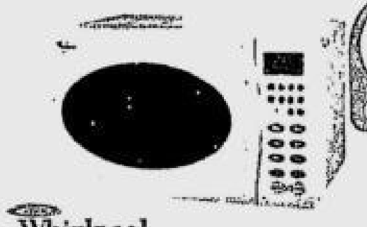
Customer Care Trunkline: (+63-2) **875-ELUX** (3589)
Domestic Toll Free No.: **1-800-888-0801**

Electrolux Philippines Inc.
7th Floor King's Court Building I
2129 Chino Roces Avenue
Makati City, Philippines



0% INTEREST 6 months

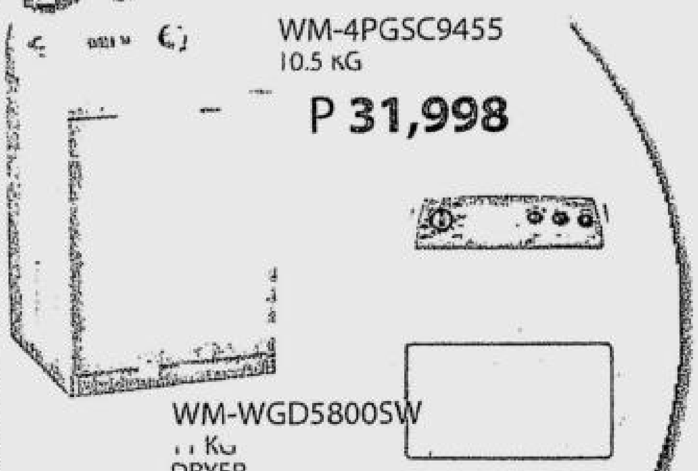
Whirlpool XT-20MG/S
.7 CF
20 Liter
P 4,898



0% INTEREST 6 months

Whirlpool XT-20ES
.7 CF
Electronic
P 4,598

SUPER BUNDLE



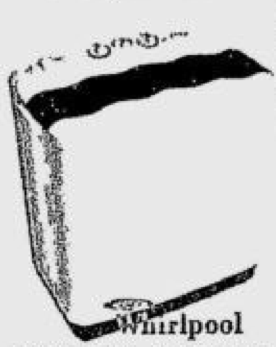
WM-4PGSC9455
10.5 KG
P 31,998

WM-WGD5800SW
11 KG
DRYER
P 30,998

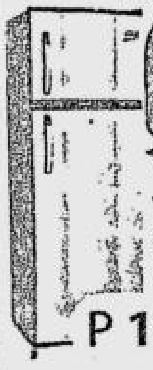
Package Price
P 60,996

0% INTEREST 6 months

Whirlpool XWT-608 6 KG TT
P 7,298

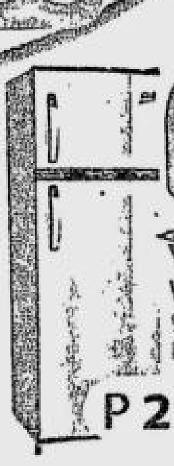


Whirlpool XWT-858 8.5 KG TT
P 8,998



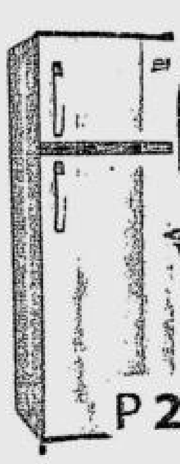
0% INTEREST 6 months

Whirlpool WSG-85
8 CF
No Frost
P 19,998



0% INTEREST 6 months

Whirlpool WSG-95
9.5 CF
No Frost
P 21,598



0% INTEREST 6 months

Whirlpool WSG-115
11 CF
No Frost
P 22,598

Whirlpool ABENSON